

Romance, money, power — a typical Press Council story



Mr. Louis Blom-Cooper

By Richard Evans, Media
Editor

A broken romance, money and power, so often the ingredients of lurid stories which end up before the Press Council, played a key part in determining who became chairman of that august body which sets the tone for the media, it emerged last night.

And to add a touch of irony, a former Conservative Cabinet minister who wanted the job, and unknowingly had it within his grasp, saw his hopes dashed by a newspaper story.

Within hours of the announcement on Tuesday that Mr. Louis Blom-Cooper, QC, is to succeed Sir Zelman Cowen next January at the helm of the Press Council, the

full story of how he was second choice for the post and the remarkable circumstances surrounding the selection process emerged.

A nine-strong ad hoc council committee began working early this year, amid tight security, to find a successor to Sir Zelman who could restore what critics believed was the shrunken image and standing of the watchdog body.

They quickly shortlisted two candidates — both peers, Lord Barber of Westbury, better known as Tony Barber, Chancellor of the Exchequer during the Heath government, and Lord McGregor of Durris, who chaired the Royal Commission on the press in the 1970s.

At a private meeting late in

March the group of nine came down in favour of Lord Barber, aged 68. His nomination only needed to be rubber stamped by the full council meeting planned for April.

Then on April 12 a newspaper gossip column disclosed that Lord Barber's seven-month engagement to a woman 36 years his junior had fallen through with raven-haired divorcee Jamie Ash having moved out of the peer's home.

Lord Barber, unaware that the £30,000 a year job was his for the taking, asked Mr. Ken Morgan, the council director, to his home and said he no longer wished to be considered for "personal reasons." According to well informed sources, if he had not jumped he would have been pushed. "He was

certainly no longer acceptable," one insider said last night.

The search for a successor resumed. Powerful backers of Lord McGregor were anxious to see him have a second chance, but his radical plans for the council given during an "abrasive" interview with the selection panel had not helped his cause. Council factions argued over his suitability. In the end what were seen as heavy handed tactics adopted by some sections of the newspaper industry, notably the Newspaper Society which represents provincial papers, in foisting Lord McGregor on the Council, effectively killed his chances.

By this week Mr. Blom-Cooper and Professor Alan Peacock, who penned the report into the future

of broadcasting, were the two front runners, with the latter saying he would only take the job if he was the only candidate and a unanimous choice. Professor Peacock quickly concluded that some powerful elements on the committee were less than enthusiastic about his participation.

After two votes, the first 6 to 3 in favour of the liberal lawyer, the second 7 to 2 in favour, his selection was agreed. Then came the second problem — money.

The committee had been hoping to offer a salary of £30,000, which has been paid to Sir Zelman and would have been acceptable to Lord Barber.

But Mr. Blom-Cooper, who will give up practising at the Bar when he takes up the post, said he

wanted two-thirds the salary of a High Court judge — equivalent to £42,000, plus a £5,000 a year pension contribution, for the three days a week post.

The selection committee agreed to £40,000 salary plus the pension, and before the full Council was allowed to know their preferred candidate they also had to agree to the 30 per cent rise. They did so and quickly gave their unanimous backing to Mr. Blom-Cooper.

But last night there were complaints from some insiders of having been stampeded into a decision. Meanwhile the Council will have no full-time chairman between October, when Sir Zelman retires, and the New Year, when Mr. Blom-Cooper takes over.

Young clears way for foreign takeover

Swiss giants £2bn battle for Rowntree

By Cliff Feltham and Richard Ford

Rowntree, the British confectionery group, was at the centre of a £2 billion international tug of war last night after the Government cleared the way for a foreign takeover of the business.

The decision by Lord Young of Graffham, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, not to refer the bid by Nestlé, the Swiss food group, to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, effectively ended any chance of the York company remaining independent.

On the stock market, Rowntree shares soared to a record £10.50 a share, up from £8.50, after the price could go to £12 a share in

the event of a full scale battle between the two Swiss multinationals.

The Government was criticized by MPs from all sides of the House over its decision to allow the bid.

Government backbenchers joined the opposition in protesting at the decision, which could see such famous brands as KitKat and Quality Street move into Swiss hands.

Within minutes of Lord Young's decision, Richard Young, director of Rowntree, called for a meeting with Nestlé to discuss an offer worth £940m a share, putting a value of £2.25 billion on the group, compared with the existing 900p offer from Nestlé.

Last night, Mr. Kenneth Clarke, the Rowntree chairman, said the company would

justify a reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The United Kingdom, he told the Commons, had benefited from both inward and outward investment and open markets were the best means of encouraging efficiency and generating wealth and jobs.

Mr. Clarke said it was "absurd to take a nationalist view" and accused opponents on his own and the opposition benches of taking a short term populist view. "What we are facing is extremely uncertain populism, not properly thought out, based on short term lobbies and fear of foreigners coming in."

No one would seek to acquire the company with a view to running it down, but he said the Government faced a "spectacular management at Rowntree which had run an extremely good campaign implying this was some kind of 'overseas threat to our sovereignty' in an effort to get the Government to intervene."

A "fortress England mentality towards the economy is extremely unsuccessful in modern trading conditions."

But Conservative MPs particularly from constituencies in northern England attacked the decision as giving a signal that the Government would not stand by British companies.

Mr. Conal Gregory, Conser-

Continued on page 24, col 6

Self-reliant Prime Minister paying her way



Meeting her responsibilities: Mrs Thatcher pays for flowers from the podium display at the Conservative Women's Conference. (Photograph: Tim Bishop)

Thatcher champions the family

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

In remarks that came close to accusing the Opposition directly of being anti-family, Mrs Thatcher yesterday gave a warning of the grim social cost of the breakdown of the family.

She said that in some inner cities as many as one child in three was being brought up without the security of two parents.

Family breakdown on this scale struck at the very heart of society and threatened heart-rending social problems that no government could cure or perhaps even cope with.

Describing the family as a building block of society, she said it far surpassed the state

in the provision of welfare and that it fashioned the beliefs of succeeding generations.

Policy must be further directed at strengthening the family, she said, adding that very few jobs compared in long-term importance and satisfaction with that of

housewife and mother. Yet Labour branded this capitalist view of democracy of people and families — the first post-socialist society — the "greedy society."

She said: "Can't they see that self-reliance is the first step towards helping others? That men and women are striving for more independence, accepting more responsibility, hoping to give their children a better chance in life?"

Mrs Thatcher's address, to the Conservative Women's Conference in London, was enthusiastically received by her audience of 2,000.

It followed her speech to the Church of Scotland last week-end which provoked Tuesday's angry clash with Mr. Neil Kinnock in the Commons over the proper allocation of wealth, and the denunciation of Mrs Thatcher as a modern prophet of ruthless individualism by Mr. Roy Hattersley.

Partial text.....12
Parliament.....12
Letters.....17

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Rolls deal could be worth £1bn

By Derek Harris
Industrial Editor

Rolls-Royce, the aero engine-maker, has been awarded a contract potentially worth more than £1 billion, within days of finalizing another £200 million deal. Both contracts involve American customers.

Derby-based Rolls-Royce also wants to make a strong bid for a third engine order that could be worth a substantial amount.

The latest contractual boost to Rolls-Royce sales comes after a decision by American

Continued on page 24, col 3

TOMORROW



● The Washington State Circus rolls into Moscow this weekend as President Reagan's policy advisers, security advisers, assistant advisers and advisers' assistants prepare for the Superpower summit on Monday.

● Tomorrow The Times looks at the massive task of getting the President's men to Moscow, and finds out what they will do when they get there.

IN PART 2

On course

The Co-op is to provide five sites for a ten-year £150 million golf course development scheme. Page 48

INDEX

Home News	23-5
Overseas	6-7, 9
Business	25-34
Sport	44-48
Appointments	35-42
Arts	20
Births, marriages, deaths	18
Books	21
City Diary	27
Court	18
Crime de la Semaine	43
Crosswords	14-24
Diary	16
Entertainments	22
Features	14-16
Health	15
Information	22
Law Report	44
Leading articles	17
Letters	18
Obituary	12
Parliament	12
Science Report	16
TV & Radio	23
Weather	24

'Automatic divorces'

Automatic divorces after a fixed period are recommended as part of a programme of reforms of the divorce law in a consultation paper published yesterday by the Law Commission.

Partners would not have to allege fault or give other proof of "irretrievable breakdown" under the proposals, which seem certain to provoke widespread controversy and be seen as a move towards "divorce on demand".

They represent a shift away

from present divorce procedures which are seen as fostering recrimination and bitterness over the past, replacing that approach with one in which couples will be encouraged to sort out practical arrangements for the future, with children as a priority.

Divorce would be far easier to obtain than now. The commission says the present law, in force for 15 years, is confusing, misleading and unfair.

Details, page 5

Defence contract 'ransom'

By Martin Fletcher
Political Reporter

A small number of big defence contractors are holding the Ministry of Defence to "ransom", Mr. Peter Levene, Chief of Defence Procurement, said yesterday.

The companies, most of which are household names, have refused to comply with a labelling system introduced last year to prevent overcharging on spare parts, he told the Commons public accounts committee.

It was probable that the companies were acting in concert, Mr. Levene said in answer to Mr. Michael Latham, a Tory member of the committee.

He said the ministry's annual spare parts budget was more than £2 billion. Because the companies were often the only source of spare parts, the ministry could be "held to ransom, which is something we do not like."

EETPU ruling set to split the TUC

By Tim Jones

The TUC yesterday moved towards the biggest split in its 120-year history when the general council formally charged the Electrical, Electronic Telecommunications and Plumbing Union with engaging in activities detrimental to the movement by refusing to pull out of two single-union deals.

Within the movement, it is one of the most serious charges that can be laid against an affiliate and it now seems increasingly likely that the union will have left the TUC before its Congress meets in September.

Mr. Bill Jordan, president of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, who fought unsuccessfully for the process to be delayed said the effect of a major affiliate leaving the TUC would have "unimaginable consequences".

He added: "There is an undercurrent of a demolition

squad going on. If you pull a brick out of a foundation and it is as important as the EETPU, you can't forecast the consequences for the rest of the building."

The EETPU, which has been asked to turn up at the next General Council meeting in June to answer the charges, was also censured for an admitted breach of a TUC directive which had forbidden recruitment at the News International plant during the Wapping dispute.

Later, Mr. Hammond said: "The TUC decision is not unexpected but we regret that the General Council has decided to move along a route that may lead to a major division in our movement."

During the meeting, the crucial vote on whether to proceed with the charges against the EETPU was carried by 32 votes to two.

Reagan hints at fifth summit to sign arms pact

From Christopher Thomas
Washington

President Reagan is ready to meet Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev in a neutral country later this year if the superpowers can agree on limiting strategic nuclear weapons.

In an interview in the Oval Office of the White House with The Times, Mr. Reagan said he would not rule out the possibility of reaching a "Strategic Arms Reduction Talks (Start)" treaty before leaving office on January 20. "I won't say it's impossible," he added.

"I hope that it can come about while I'm still here and I think they feel the same way, just because they believe that there would be perhaps unnecessary delay if you had to wait while a new president in this office settled

in and got around to working with them. And so I would hope that we can iron out the still undecided points before I leave."

Speaking on the eve of his departure for Helsinki on his way to the Moscow summit, he expressed confidence that progress could be made on a Start

agreement, although there was no way one could be signed during his four-day stay in the Soviet Union.

Yesterday, at a departure ceremony at the White House, Mr. Reagan said that since his first meeting with Mr. Gorbachev in 1985, US-Soviet rela-

tions had come a long way and declared that his task next week would be to go still further in the interests of peace. "Farther toward a universal respect for fundamental human rights. Farther toward world freedom. Farther toward a safer world for all people."

After reviewing the agreements reached with Mr. Gorbachev, including the INF Treaty, Mr. Reagan outlined his four-part agenda on arms control, human rights, regional conflicts and bilateral relations.

"I do not expect it to be easy. We have many differences — deep differences, moral differences. But we are still fellow human beings. We can still work together to keep the peace. And in working with the Soviet Union, the

US can still remain true to its mission of expanding liberty throughout the world."

In the 30-minute interview, Mr. Reagan said pointedly for the first time that he disagreed with Vice-President George Bush's opposition to dropping drug charges against Panama's General Manuel Noriega if the military strongman agreed to leave power. "He and I disagree on that," he said.

Mr. Reagan, wearing a brown suit and patterned brown tie, was buoyant and affable and laughed loudly at his anecdotes. The President, aged 77, looked extremely well and relaxed. He described Mr. Gorbachev as forthright. "We can get into discussions where perhaps we're

Continued on page 24, col 2

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NEWS ROUNDUP

150 BA strikers return to work

Last night 150 striking British Airways engineers returned to work at Heathrow, raising hopes that flights could be maintained over the Bank holiday weekend.

There is no sign, however, of a mass return by the 3,500 engineers and maintenance men who are protesting at the dismissal of Mr Graham Murfin, a shop steward. The company alleges he led an unofficial walk-out two months ago, breaking established dispute procedures.

Over the past two days aircraft have been serviced by 210 management engineers who have been on duty day and night. Yesterday BA was forced to cancel two flights to Amsterdam because of the dispute.

Today the main council of the British Air Line Pilots' Association meets to discuss a 5.5 per cent pay offer which many pilots are unhappy about.

Jobs scheme backed

TUC leaders have decided to give "conditional" support to the Government's £1.5 billion employment training programme, which is to be launched in the autumn. The decision to throw the weight of the trade union movement behind the programme was taken at yesterday's meeting of the TUC general council by 19 votes to 14. Union leaders agreed that Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Employment, had made several concessions after pressure from them.

Literacy campaign

The Government has committed £300,000 to fighting adult illiteracy by funding two adult learning centres that will open in Bristol and Leeds this autumn. The centres will be free to students and are expected to be the first of several in inner cities which will make heavy use of micro-computers and "self-help" learning. The Adult Literacy and Basic Skills Unit estimates that as many as 5,500,000 adults in England and Wales have problems with reading, writing and arithmetic.

Councillors cleared

Senior Birmingham city councillors were cleared at a public inquiry yesterday of wasting ratepayers' money on foreign trips. It had been alleged that the councillors wrongfully spent more than £11,000 on five overseas visits. Mr Hugh McCredy, a Birmingham University lecturer whose own investigation led to the inquiry, also alleged that Mr Dick Knowles, council leader, had work carried out on his garden at the expense of ratepayers. However, Mr Tom Walls, chairman of the inquiry, ruled that the onus was on Mr McCredy to produce evidence, and he had failed.

Death fall inquiry off

An investigation into the deaths of four boys from Maidenhead, Berkshire, who fell down an Austrian mountain while on a school trip last April has been called off by prosecutors in Salzburg, an official said yesterday. Frau Herta Krainer of the Salzburg prosecutor's office, said: "It is now up to the English authorities how they want to proceed with this inquiry. We have no more questions at this time." The decision was made 10 days ago by an independent investigating judge in Salzburg, Frau Krainer said.

Benefit withdrawal

The family of heart-and-lung transplant patient Cheryl Bull, aged 15, of Maple Street, Barrow, Cumbria, may lose £22.50 a week in income support benefit because of the amount raised through an appeal fund for her. So far £8,000 has been donated to Cheryl, who is recovering at Harefield Hospital, west London. Her father, James Bull, is also ill.

Lottery comeback

The organizers of a lottery to help fund the National Health Service have said they will "regroup for another attack".

The first one was cancelled on Tuesday by Mr George Smith, a representative of the new National Hospital Trust, as a winner was about to be chosen.

The scheme would have contributed £26,000 to the NHS from each draw, but there were protests from the Gaming Board that it contravened the Lotteries and Amusements Act, 1976.

Nuclear defence decisions postponed for a year
Kinnock routs far left opponents as critics claim policy 'sell-out'

By Philip Webster
Chief Political Correspondent

The Labour Party yesterday papered over its differences on nuclear defence as Mr Neil Kinnock routed the far left and won massive backing for policy reforms ditching many of its cherished commitments.

With the left denouncing a sell-out, the first phase of Labour's two-year policy review, designed to lead the party back to power, ended in victory for the Labour leader as reports of seven review committees sailed through the national executive by overwhelming majorities.

But it postponed the most difficult decisions, particularly on the defence policy, until next year.

Mr Kinnock and his leadership colleagues, including Mr Gerald Kaufman, the shadow Foreign Secretary, resisted attempts to tie the hands of the international policy committee, which will draw up a policy on nuclear defence covering the party's position on Trident, Polaris and American nuclear bases, in the second phase of its work.

Mr David Blunkett, an ally of Mr

Kinnock concerned by recent suggestions that the Labour leader is preparing to water down Labour's unilateralist stance, secured unanimous backing for a motion underlining Labour's belief that nuclear weapons "create hostility and distrust which stunts the lives of individuals and communities across the world, and that reliance on such weapons of mass destruction cannot contribute to the effective defence of our country or the collective security of nations".

Senior party sources underlined afterwards that that did not pre-empt any decisions to be made next year, and suggestions that specific policy declarations, including rejection of the American nuclear umbrella, should be written into the policy now, were rejected.

Mr Kaufman, chairman of the international committee, told the NEC defence was centrally important to Labour's appeal to the electorate. He added: "The question is by what means and with what weapons we can best defend our country. That will be the subject of detailed examination in phase two of our work."

Mr Kinnock's own position on the nuclear umbrella was left ambiguous by interviews he gave later. In one he said: "I recognize that the Americans will have nuclear weapons as long as the Russians do. I recognize we are in Nato and will stay in Nato. I also recognize that America will take decisions about the use of those weapons on the basis of its own perceptions."

After the meeting Mr Dennis Skinner, MP for Bolsover, attacked the party's rejection of wholesale public ownership, opposition to membership of the European Community, and other policy changes as "probably the biggest socialist sell-out of the century".

Mr Tony Benn, challenging Mr Kinnock for the leadership, described the policy review as a "backward step". He said: "It does not mean an awful lot in terms of realizing the objectives for which the Labour Party was set up."

Mr Ken Livingstone said the programme did not contain enough socialism; it was "traditional Labour Party fudge". But Mr Kinnock said:

"We now have a firm foundation to send us forward with a clear picture to the early 1990s".

The most heated exchanges of the long NEC session came on the key economic policy group report which Mr Bryan Gould, shadow Trade and Industry Secretary, said had "thought its way into the 1990s".

But Mr Benn accused Mr Gould of accepting a "profit based" society and simply wanting it to run more efficiently. Mr Skinner said the report marked a "dramatic shift" which would please big business. An angry Mr Kinnock accused the critics of failing to put forward constructive alternatives and "sloganeering".

Mr Kinnock told the meeting: "Let us acknowledge that the future is what it is. It exists and it has not been invented by pre-Thatcherite, crypto Gaitskellites, proto Wilsonites or any other deviationists."

Mr Larry Whitty, party general secretary, said later: "The second stage is going to be a lot more difficult, more detailed and a lot more hard work. We have made a good start but it is only the first stage."

PSA to be divided in business shake-up

By Richard Ford
Political Correspondent

The long-awaited reorganization of the Property Services Agency (PSA), which right-wing Conservatives hope will lead to full privatization after the next general election, was announced yesterday.

The agency, which runs the government estates, is to be split into three businesses which will be commercially funded by 1990 and competing with private companies for government contracts.

Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment, told MPs that two businesses would cover project and estate services. The third would continue to manage the common-user element of the civil estate.

The changes were designed to expose the PSA to competition and to equip it to compete effectively.

Mr Ridley said a large amount of property would become the responsibility of individual departments. Agreement had been reached with the Prime Minister that the Ministry of Defence would take control of its estate, including barracks, artillery ranges and naval dockyards.

He said that in relation to privatization, staff in the three businesses might support such a proposal.

Dr John Cunningham, Labour's environment spokesman, said the real aim was to prepare the PSA for its dismantlement and ultimate sale.

Woman dons the rector's robe



Muriel Gray, left, the television presenter and journalist, after being installed yesterday as the first female Rector of Edinburgh University at the McEwan Hall by the Duke of Edinburgh, the university's chancellor (Photograph: Tom Kidd).

Steel condemns attack on Ashdown

By Richard Ford
Political Correspondent

Mr David Steel warned his parliamentary colleagues last night against turning the leadership struggle for the Social and Liberal Democrats into a damaging personality contest.

He rebuked those involved in producing a 10-point document denigrating Mr Paddy Ashdown on personal and political grounds.

His intervention in the controversy came after Mr Alan Beith disowned the

"dirty tricks" tactics of his supporters.

In a letter to Mr Ashdown, Mr Beith said that no document or pamphlet attacking him as a poor debater without substance had been circulated and that what appeared in the media were the views of an individual. "This action was not in any way authorized by me or by any organized group known to me and I would have been wholly opposed to the circulation or publication of any document of this kind," he said.

In reply, Mr Ashdown said that he was grateful for Mr Beith's "clear repudiation

of both the style and content of the alleged document."

But, with leading members of the party anxious to avoid the degeneration of the contest into a bitter slanging match, Mr James Wallace, SLD chief whip, said he would be speaking to Mr Alex Carlile, the home affairs spokesman, who has defended the document.

Mr Steel said that the leading potential candidates, Mr Beith and Mr Ashdown, had been annoyed at what had happened but that he believed that the dispute was a "storm in a tea cup".

Conservative Women's Conference

Ridley runs green gauntlet

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

Mr Nicholas Ridley was branded a "financial nincompoop" yesterday as he ran the gauntlet of Conservative women protesting at their conference in London about the Government's policy towards green field development.

In a rare show of open dissent at such a gathering, the Secretary of State for the Environment was heckled as he maintained that he would not allow developers to encroach on the Green Belt. "They are, they are", a section of his audience cried.

A minority of speakers maintained that those in pleasant towns and villages had no right to deny such comforts to newcomers, but the debate was overwhelmingly hostile to the Secretary of State.

One speaker warned him that the view from his window in the Cotswolds could soon be in danger and Miss Hazel Prowse, an engineer from Camberley in Surrey, branded him a "financial nincompoop".

"He gives £10 million for replacing trees lost in the hurricane with one hand, and then gives carte blanche to money-grubbing developers to bulldoze our woodlands with the other."

Mrs Josephine Hawkes, from Ashford in Kent, caught the conference mood when she said: "I was not elected a Conservative councillor to preside over the pouring of concrete from the Channel to the Weald".

The conference overwhelmingly endorsed a resolution, accepted by Mr Ridley, which said that housing development should be concentrated within the cities.

Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, strongly backed police action in tackling football hooliganism in spite of the collapse of three recent trials.

He also told football clubs to live up to their responsibilities to defeat "the louts and the vandals".

His speech followed Mrs Thatcher's condemnation of the disorders at the England versus Scotland match at Wembley.

Although Mr Hurd did not announce any tougher measures, delegates applauded his promise to continue the campaign against soccer violence.

Baker hint on top-up student loans

Proposals for top-up student loans will be brought forward shortly, Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science, told the Conservative Women's Conference.

Mr Baker said a review by Mr Robert Jackson, Under-Secretary of State for Education and Science responsible for higher education, was nearing completion.

He said: "Top-up loans would encourage students to invest in their own future. We are the only country in the developed world that does not have some form of loans in higher education."

It is understood that the Government will publish a White Paper this summer advocating low-interest loans repayable over a period such as 10 years, in addition to the existing means-tested grant system.

An earlier proposal to cut the maximum value of the grant by £100 as the price for the introduction of a cheap £1,000 loan has been modified, it is believed.

Mr Baker also indicated he is sympathetic to controversial moves by backbench Conservative peers to make religious education in schools specifically Christian.

Minister against random testing

By Stewart Tisdler
Crime Reporter

A Home Office minister warned Britain's chief constables yesterday against waging a "witch-hunt" on motorists with random breath tests.

Lord Faversham said the Government had no immediate plans to change police powers, although ministers would listen to police proposals.

A survey of 43 chief constables in England and Wales has shown that a quarter want to see a total ban on drink-driving, and more than half would some reduction in permissible drink levels. Chief constables could begin an official campaign for random breath tests later this year.

In July, leaders of the chief constables will discuss drink-driving policy.

The minister's call for caution on changes was made at the opening yesterday of an Association of Chief Police Officers conference at Eastbourne, East Sussex devoted to traffic problems.

Lord Faversham told more than 70 senior officers that police already had the power to stop a car at random, and then, if they had good reason, carry out a test. In 1986, 300,000 breath tests were performed and the figures for 1987 were likely to be significantly higher, he said.

"It is easy for people to appear to support random testing as a laudable effort against drink-driving, but the police will want to consider how the public will react at the roadside."

"We must not carry out a witch-hunt on motorists," the minister said. If random breath tests were introduced, "we would stop and delay and infuriate many quiet, law-abiding citizens".

Mr Peter Bottomley, Minister of Transport, said drivers who failed alcohol breath tests should have their licences suspended until their court cases were over.

Under-manned police forces throughout the country are having to commit depleted resources to protect magistrates, jurors and witnesses subjected to threats of murder or intimidation.

Mr James Anderson, Chief Constable of Greater Manchester, said in his annual report yesterday that groups had emerged who were prepared to intimidate witnesses, jurors and even magistrates.

Teenagers should be given a financial incentive to combat vandalism, a report commissioned by the local crime prevention panel at Blyth Valley in north-east England suggests.

The report says they should be offered agreements by local authorities and other organizations, whereby savings made from reducing vandalism are put back into the community in the form of leisure facilities.

Dublin gives cool response to job reforms

By Paul Valley

Government proposals published yesterday for legislation to counter religious discrimination against Roman Catholics in Northern Ireland received a lukewarm response from Dublin.

The new law, which is expected to come into force in the middle of next year, will make all forms of direct and indirect discrimination a criminal offence.

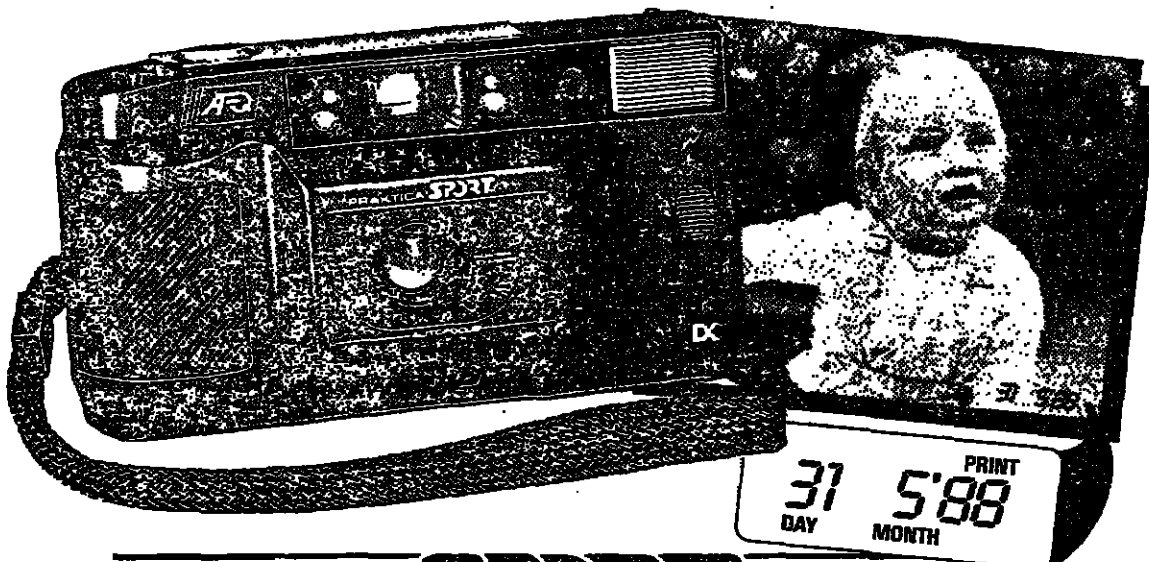
But some of the measures to encourage fairer recruitment policies "appear to fall short of what is required", according to the Dublin Government.

In a White Paper, Fair Employment in Northern Ireland, the Government acknowledges that discrimination is a significant problem. Catholic men, it says, are two and a half times as likely to be unemployed than Protestants.

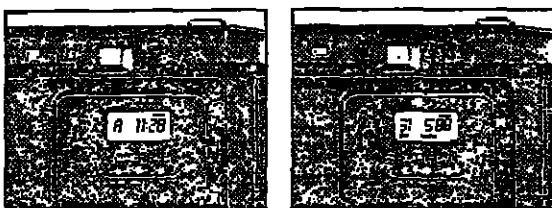
Under the new law firms with more than 25 employees must monitor the religious composition of their workforces and submit returns to a new Fair Employment Commission.

By the Times system
Australia \$2.50, Belgium 2.50, Canada 2.50, Denmark 2.50, France 2.50, Germany 2.50, Greece 2.50, Italy 2.50, Japan 2.50, Korea 2.50, Netherlands 2.50, Norway 2.50, Portugal 2.50, Spain 2.50, Sweden 2.50, Switzerland 2.50, Taiwan 2.50, Thailand 2.50, USA 2.50, West Germany 2.50.

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Kasparov sacrifice blunts Karpov's new move

By Raymond Keene
Chess Correspondent

Gary Kasparov, the world champion, and his closest rival, Anatoly Karpov, clashed in the ninth round of the European Options Tournament in Amsterdam on Tuesday evening.

Karpov made great efforts with the White pieces to narrow the one and a half point gap between himself and the front-runner.

Precise defence by Kasparov in a highly complex variation of the Grünfeld Defence blunted Karpov's initiative.

In the later stages Kasparov was a pawn ahead and striving for victory. A draw was agreed on move 58.

Karpov's seventeenth move was unknown to chess theorists.

However, Kasparov's temporary Queen sacrifice on move 22 ended any chance of victory for Karpov.

1 d4	Nf6	31 Kf2	Kf6	21 Ng3	Nc4	51 Kg2	Kf6
2 c4	g6	32 Qd3	Kf6	22 Qd2	Qd2+	52 Rf7	Kf6
3 Nf3	g5	33 Nc4	Rd8	23 Qd3	Rd8	53 Rf7	Kf6
4 cxd5	fxd5	34 Nf2	Nc2	24 Qd3	Rd8	54 Rf7	Kf6
5 e4	fxd5	35 Kf2	Rd8	25 Qd3	Rd8	55 Rf7	Kf6
6 h3	g7	36 Rf4	Kf6	26 Qd3	Rd8	56 Rf7	Kf6
7 Nf3	g6	37 Rf4	Kf6	27 Rf7	Rd8	57 Rf7	Kf6
8 Nf3	g6	38 Rf4	Kf6	28 Rf7	Rd8	58 Rf7	Kf6
9 Bc4	g6	39 Rf4	Kf6	29 Rf7	Rd8	59 Rf7	Kf6
10 0-0	g6	40 Rf4	Kf6	30 Rf7	Rd8	60 Rf7	Kf6
11 f3	g6	41 Rf4	Kf6	31 Kf2	Kf6		
12 Rf7	Rd8	42 Kf2	Kf6				
13 Rf7	Rd8	43 Rf7	Kf6				
14 Kf2	Qd8	44 Rf7	Kf6				
15 e5	Qd8	45 Rf7	Kf6				
16 Rf2	Qd8	46 Rf7	Kf6				
17 Qd2	Qd8	47 Rf7	Kf6				
18 Qd2	Qd8	48 Rf7	Kf6				
19 Rf4	Qd8	49 Rf7	Kf6				
20 Kf1	Qd8	50 Rf7	Kf6				

Draw agreed.
In the other game from round nine Jan Timman drew in 30 moves with John Van der Wiel. Scores with three rounds remaining: Kasparov (USSR) 6½; Anatoly Karpov (USSR) 5; Timman (The Netherlands) 4; Van der Wiel (The Netherlands) 2.

Drugs gang sent a new year taunt to police, court is told

By Michael Horsnell

A gang of drug manufacturers, who evaded detectives from Scotland Yard's drug squad, sent them a "good luck" new year's card teasing them for failing to track down their secret laboratory, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

However, regional crime squad officers "wiped the smile off their faces" when they took over the case shortly afterwards and uncovered a factory stocked with £1.5 million of ingredients for the manufacture of a ton of amphetamine sulphate, or "speed", the court was told.

The judge has ordered police protection for the jury during a trial expected to last two months. Four men are charged with conspiring to produce and supply the drug. They are Joseph Pykett, aged 35, a metal refiner from Loughborough, Essex; Charles Matthews, aged 53, a scrap metal dealer from Wansford, East London; Kevin Hole, aged 26, unemployed, from Epping, Essex; and Stephen Tucker, aged 29, unemployed, of no fixed abode. All pleaded not guilty.

Mr Hole is also accused of possessing amphetamine sulphate with intent to supply

and Mr Pykett faces two charges of incitement to pervert the course of justice and one of doing an act tending or intending to pervert the course of justice.

Mr Michael Stuart-Moore, for the prosecution, told the jury that the four men were engaged in the business of making an illicit drug and had a factory capable of manufacturing "massive quantities".

He said: "It was being done quite clearly in order to make vast profits that there are to be made in this particular field."

The discovery of the factory in Tidal Basin Road, Canning Town, east London, was followed by the uncovering of two other drug laboratories which appeared to have become disused.

The judge devised "an extremely good cover story" in case anyone started asking questions, the court was told.

Mr Pykett approached mechanics who were using the ground floor as a workshop and said he wanted the upstairs premises for the recovery of silver from photographic negatives. He needed to say something which would explain the gang's use of darkened windows.

Drug squad officers man-

aged during police investigations to intercept a consignment of BMK — a crucial ingredient in the manufacture of "speed" — but while they were substituting water for the chemical a driver who was to take the substance on the last leg of its journey disappeared.

As a result the drugs squad officers were sent a new year's card wishing them "good luck" and saying, "Sorry, boys on the squad for not picking up the BMK," Mr Stuart-Moore said.

He added: "Shortly afterwards officers from the Regional Crime Squad moved in and arrested these four men and it may be they took the smiles off the faces of these defendants in an operation that was to follow soon after the failure by the drug squad."

Mr Matthews unwittingly led officers to the factory in February last year but police were forced to move in and make arrests quickly because other detectives arrested Mr Hole for a separate matter.

The price of a kilogram of amphetamine sulphate on the wholesale market was £1,500 which meant the factory was capable of producing £1.5 million of the substance.

The trial continues today.

Prickly issue confronts the Commons



Woman Police Constable Karen Anstiss escorting hedgehogs at the Commons yesterday when they arrived at the invitation of Mr Robert Jones, MP for Hertfordshire West. He handed a 35,000-signature petition calling for better protection for the species to Lord Calthous, Minister of State at the Department of the Environment (Photograph: Peter Trievnor).

ITV woos viewers with £100 million package

By Andrew Billen

The single drama is returning to ITV this summer as part of a £100 million package designed to win back viewers after a disappointing performance in the ratings so far this year.

The series of eight 90-minute films, contributed by various ITV companies and to be shown on Sunday evenings, is the first for many years on ITV. The network is spending £30 million on 56 hours of original drama this season.

Received wisdom is that single plays are, hour-for-hour, more costly to make than serials and have the disadvantage of being incapable of building up audi-

ences. However, Mr Paul Bonner, head of programme planning for the ITV Association, said yesterday: "Research shows that home-made drama is more popular with viewers than imported material. It is our firm policy to produce more British-made drama."

Productions to be featured include *The Dawning* — the latest in a spate of television dramas with an Irish setting — featuring the last film performance of Trevor Howard; *The Moneyman*, set in London's financial markets; *Better Days*, about an elderly man's struggle to retain his independence; and *Genry*, a story about a kidnap and robbery.

Tom Courtenay, Diana Quick and

Ronald Pickup star in *Chekhov in Yalta*, an adaptation of an award-winning American play about a visit by the Moscow Arts Theatre Company to Chekhov's villa in Yalta in 1900.

Several new mini-series were also announced yesterday, including *A Shadow on the Sun*, starring Stefanie Powers, and *Monte Carlo*, a wartime romantic thriller starring Joan Collins.

It is, however, the revamping of Thames Television's police series *The Bill* that is most crucial to the network. *The Bill* is to fill a twice-weekly half-hour slot from mid-July, and it is hoped the programme will emulate the success of BBC's *EastEnders*.

Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator Man wins £4,000

One winner yesterday claimed the £4,000 daily Portfolio prize. Mr N. Willis, of Padstow, Cornwall, successfully matched the daily dividend figure after checking his eight share price movements.

Portfolio offers two chances: the daily prize of £4,000 or the contents of the Accumulator Fund.

Curb urged on 'greedy GPs'

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

The British drug industry's watchdog group called yesterday for stricter standards to prevent "greedy" doctors seeking payments or rewards in their dealings with pharmaceutical companies.

Some general practitioners are asking drug company representatives for cash before agreeing to talk to them in their surgeries, or for free equipment or products, according to a report by the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI).

Such incidents are becoming more common, Dr Frank Wells, the association's director of medical affairs, said.

It was aware of six cases this year in which GPs had asked drug representatives for money, typically £10, to discuss products. "This is probably only the tip of the iceberg", Dr Wells said. "It is

probably true that some doctors are simply greedy."

In its report, the association says: "There is a tendency for practitioners in all fields of medicine to seek increasing support from the pharmaceutical industry. Excessive demands are definitely the exception rather than the rule."

It says that the industry's own code of practice generally prohibits the provision of gifts or inducements for the purpose of sales promotion.

The report is being sent as a discussion document to the British Medical Association and the royal medical colleges, which have their own codes of conduct on such matters.

The BMA said: "We have made it clear that doctors should not accept large gifts or inducements, nor should they seek them. By doing so they place themselves in jeopardy

of losing their independent professional and clinical judgement."

"The practice of offering or seeking inducements should be discouraged. We note that the ABPI report says there are few cases of this kind."

Doctors are paid millions of pounds of taxpayers' money for work they do not do, nurses claimed yesterday.

Delegates at the Royal College of Nursing Congress in Brighton said that general practitioners were claiming fees for work carried out by health visitors and district nurses employed by the district health authority.

The BMA last night: "The doctor takes ultimate responsibility for the work and thus justifies the fee."

Relationships between the Medical Profession and the Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI, 12 Whitehall, London SW1A 2DY; £4).

Package holidays bill to reach record £3.6bn

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

British families are expected to spend up to £3.6 billion on package holidays this year, 16 per cent more than last year.

The Civil Aviation Authority said yesterday that it had issued licences for tour operators to offer 14,500,000 charter holidays this year, two million more than for 1987.

Much of the increase is in winter breaks with several tour operators poised to offer many thousands more holidays this winter.

Thomson Holidays, by far the biggest tour operator, has approved to offer 3,240,000 holidays this year compared with 2,697,250 last year.

Up to 70 per cent of all summer package holidays are to Spain and fears that many would not be sold appear to have been unfounded.

The big increase in the number of holiday flights, however, is bound to lead to delays and congestion at most British airports.

● Tourism was worth a record £18 billion to Britain last year, it was announced yesterday.

Mr John Lee, Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Employment, said turnover was 5 per cent more than in 1986.

Mr Lee, launching *Tourism*

88, the latest in a series of reports on the industry, said 15,600,000 visitors came to Britain last year, another record.

He was speaking at the new £120 million Brighton Marina leisure and hotel complex, where he emphasized that Britain's traditional holiday resorts were still a key part of the tourism market.

It was important that investment continued, he said, and that the industry made the most of its chance to contribute to economic growth and job creation.

Mr Lee added that the opening of the Channel tunnel in 1993 would bring a great increase in visitors to Britain, but the benefits would pass the tourist industry by if it did not wake up to the opportunities.

"I don't think the country, let alone the tourist industry, has realized the implications of the tunnel."

He said: "The trick will be to encourage those visitors to move around the country."

Tourism employed 1,400,000 people, and was growing at the rate of nearly a thousand jobs a week. The Government wanted to see improvements in accommodation and staff training.

Drunk guests 'made hunt ball a circus'

A country and western singer accused of assault told a court yesterday that drunken guests had turned a hunt ball into a "circus" and a "farce".

Michael McClay told Exeter Crown Court that trouble started after guests spilt champagne on sound equipment, jostled with telescopic lighting poles and kicked microphones.

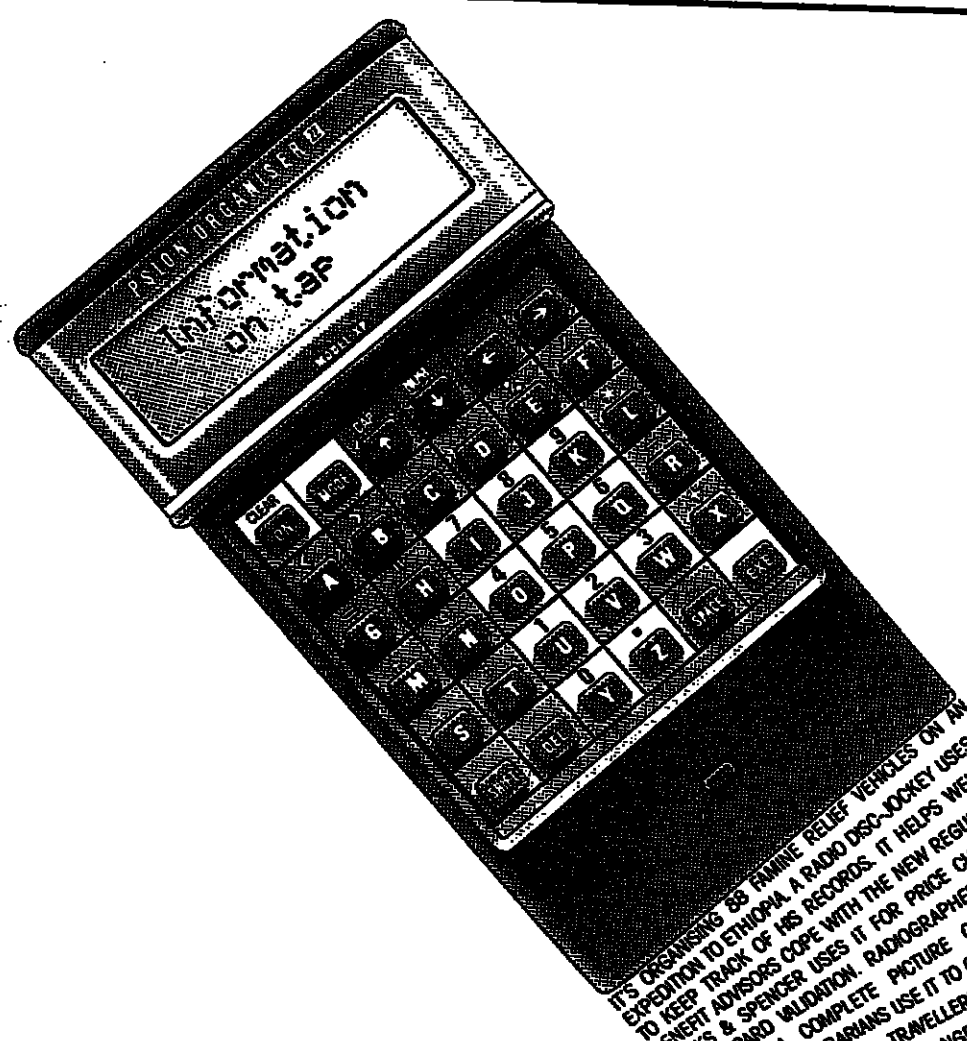
Mr McClay, aged 28, of Iolanth Drive, Exeter, whose stage name is Mike Rivers, has denied assaulting George Pezrine Dal Cazenove, aged 20, an investment dealer, causing him actual bodily harm, and wounding Guy Lister, aged 21, with intent to cause grievous bodily harm at the Tiverton Foxhounds Summer Ball last July.

Mr McClay said his brother, Simon, aged 25, had attempted to stop Mr Cazenove and another guest from jousting with two lighting poles. An argument followed and he had punched Mr Cazenove after they had agreed to a fight.

He said Mr Lister had fallen over and hit his head as he attempted to grab a lighting pole.

Mr Geoffrey Mercer, for the prosecution, said four male guests were injured as band members fought.

The case continues today.



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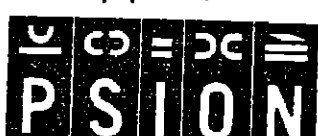
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Mail men hold the letters page

By Alan Hamilton

A leading newspaper proprietor and one of his editors are pursuing the unusual course of airing their differences on the policy of press intrusion in the letters column of an opposition newspaper, rather than by the traditional Fleet Street methods of inter-office memo or plain face-to-face shouting.

Mr Stewart Steven, editor of *The Mail on Sunday*, wrote to the *Financial Times* last month arguing that the right to personal privacy should diminish in direct proportion to the amount of property owned by an individual. Yesterday his lord and master Viscount Rothermere, chairman of Associated Newspapers which owns the *Mail*, countered in the same correspondence column, dismissing his editor's assertion as Utopian socialism.

"As citizens succeed in this material world, they would be increasingly subject to the

obscene inquisition of the current hypocritical journalism of the sensational press," Lord Rothermere thundered in a tone worthy of *The Times* upbraiding Gladstone.

He ended with a warning that "even the upright Mr Steven might have, one day, the seven-year itch and a double-page spread in the *News of the World* to look forward to."

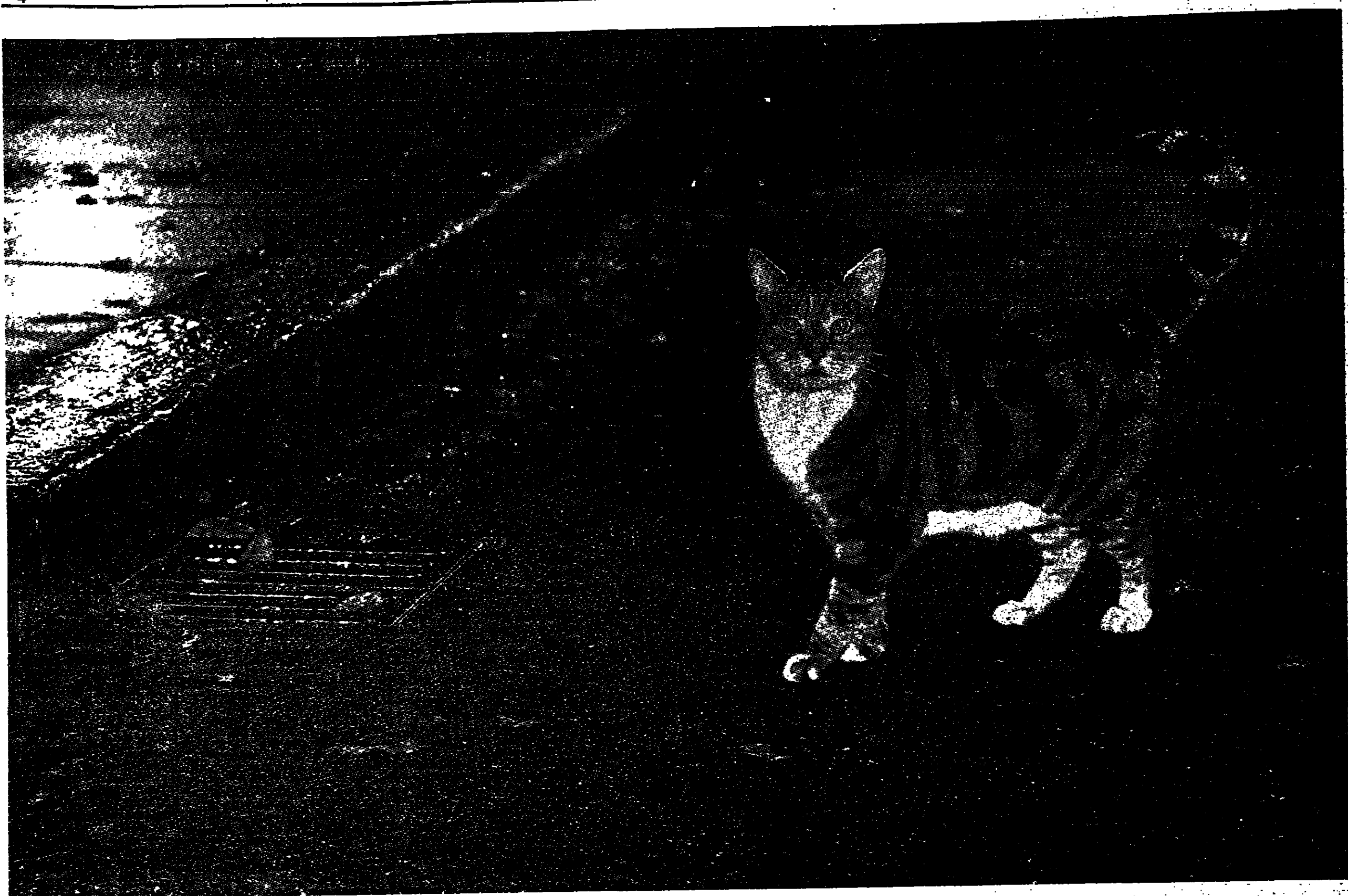
Today's *Financial Times* carries Mr Steven's riposte, in which he admits that he and his proprietor "appear to have difference of opinion over the merits or otherwise of investigative or diary journalism."

Mr Steven says: "I have never believed that the right to personal privacy should diminish in direct proportion to the amount of personal property owned by an individual. What I do maintain is that

those who own fame, fortune or political power in a democratic society must not be too surprised if the press takes a greater degree of interest in their activities than in the activities of those who are not so fortunate."

He continues: "This is not Utopian socialism, as Lord Rothermere would have it, but honest-to-God populism. Indeed, I am sure one would find that the entire Parliamentary Labour Party, those who have so assiduously worked their way to the top of the political system, would, surprisingly perhaps, be wholly in agreement with Lord Rothermere's letter..."

Mr Steven concludes: "As for Fleet Street editors, of course we must regard them as being fair game. However, the suggestion that some of them get up to no good is an unworthy one."



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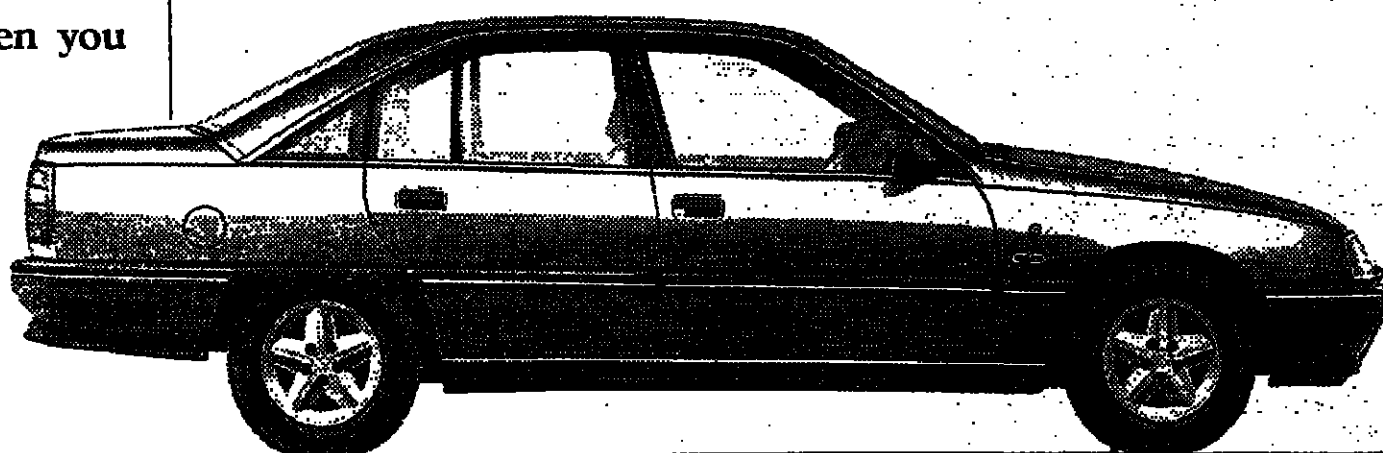
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Law Commission proposals on divorce

Automatic end of marriage without breakdown proof

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Law reforms making divorce automatic after a fixed period so that spouses would not have to allege fault or prove "irretrievable breakdown" are contained in a consultation paper published by the Law Commission yesterday.

The paper, certain to provoke controversy and be seen by some as "divorce on demand", would shift from present procedures which foster recrimination and bitterness.

Instead, couples would be encouraged to make practical arrangements for the future, with the children as priority. Divorce would be easier and less acrimonious under the proposals. But it could take longer in many cases.

The commission says the present law, in force for more than 15 years, is confusing, misleading and unfair. It causes bitterness and hostility, makes matters worse for children and discourages reconciliation.

The only ground for divorce now is the irretrievable breakdown of marriage. The present law did much to remove the old "fault" basis for divorce, the commission says. But spouses still have to show one of five grounds to demonstrate "irretrievable breakdown", and three of these — adultery, intolerable behaviour and desertion for two years — involve fault.

The other grounds are separation for two years (with the other party's consent) or for five without. The present law, therefore, means people either have to "separate or recriminate", Professor Brenda Hoggett, the Law Commissioner

chiefly responsible for the paper, said yesterday.

The paper points out that 71 per cent of divorces now rely on adultery and behaviour as grounds by which divorce can be obtained more or less immediately and the proportion is rising. In 1971, when the present divorce law first came in, the proportion was only 17 per cent.

The commission outlines several options for reform but concentrates on two: first, a fixed period of separation. This would have the disadvantages that many people would find it difficult to separate, especially mothers with young children; and others might be encouraged to do so or to lie about it.

"It would discriminate between men and women between those with and those without children and between those with and without money", Professor Hoggett said. Wives, especially poorer ones with children, most often use "intolerable behaviour" in order to secure a divorce quickly.

The second option, and that favoured by the commission, is for what it calls "process over time", by which the divorce process, including all practical arrangements about home, money and children, would be wrapped up in a fixed period of nine or 12 months.

After making a statement to the court that marriage had broken down, there would be a period of reflection, to sort out practical arrangements.

Professor Hoggett rejected criticism that the reforms, on which comments are

invited by October 31, would encourage divorce. There was no evidence, she said, that changes in the grounds for divorce affect rates of marriage. "Under present law, anyone who wants a divorce can eventually get one."

The reforms would, in the majority of cases, mean a longer waiting period, she said. "The process over time" would result in less bitterness, antagonism, and unfairness. It would give less opportunity to recriminate and more encouragement to settle matters as amicably as possible, and in the long run that must be in the best interests of the child.

Yesterday, Miss Diana Parker, of the Solicitors' Family Law Association, welcomed the ideas behind the proposals but criticized the waiting period.

This would affect those who cannot afford to separate and suffer the most hardship. "They will be forced to live as two households, but under one roof, which will create enormous tension, bitterness and hostility, and the hardship will be most for some of the most deserving cases, where there is violence and brutality."

Facing the Future: a discussion paper on the ground for divorce, Law Commission No. 170 (Stationery Office, £5.90). *Facing the Future? a summary of the issues arising from the Law Commission's discussion paper on the ground for divorce (free from Law Commission, Conquest House, 57-58 John Street, Theobalds Road, London WC1N 2DB).*

The Ground for Divorce — should the law be changed? Discussion paper No. 76 (free from Scottish Law Commission, 140 Causewayside, Edinburgh EH9 1PR).

Muslims want school head dismissed

By Craig Seton

Muslim leaders in Birmingham launched a public campaign yesterday for the resignation or dismissal of a head teacher who sent two pupils home for praying in the school's car park.

Yesterday, Haider Zaman, aged 15, one of the pupils sent home by Mrs Mary Stuart, head of the Golden Hillock School in Sparkbrook, alleged that she had told him, "Islam is the religion of the devil".

Today Birmingham City Council education officials will interview Mrs Stuart

about her policies and allegations that she also told Muslim pupils that Islam was "a misguided religion".

Muslim leaders in the city said that if Mrs Stuart was not removed as head for her "anti-Islamic" policies, they would organize public demonstrations and urge Muslim parents to withdraw their children from the school, where more than 70 per cent of pupils follow Islam.

Haider Zaman has been moved by his parents to another school. The other pupil sent home still attends Golden Hillock and prays

during his lunchtime at a Muslim house near by.

Mr Mohammed Qamar, secretary of the Birmingham Muslim Liaison Committee, which represents 40 mosques and 25 other Muslim bodies, said the row could develop into a "Bradford situation" — a reference to Mr Roy Honeyford, the Bradford headmaster who resigned after his alleged views on multi-ethnic teaching were criticized.

Mr Qamar said that Mrs Stuart, a practising Christian, had refused to set aside a room at the school for prayers by

Muslim children. He added that the school was the only one in the city that did not make such provision.

"The denial to allow prayers is due to the head's belief that 'Islam is a misguided religion'. The right to religious worship is a birthright", he said. "She must withdraw that statement. That is our precondition."

However, he said that Muslim leaders still wanted her resignation or dismissal by the city council.

Mrs Stuart was not available for comment yesterday.

King's Cross fire inquiry

Blaze test refusal angers Underground

By Tony Dawe

Senior executives of London Underground were furious last night at a ban on their plans to simulate the King's Cross fire this weekend to gather more evidence about the causes of the blaze which killed 31 people.

They believe the decision by the Railway Inspectorate is a further example of their failure to get "a fair deal" during the investigation into last November's disaster. They wanted to stage a controlled fire at King's Cross because they were dissatisfied with laboratory tests carried out by the Health and Safety Executive.

The ban was imposed yesterday on safety grounds, but London Underground insisted that it had taken "massive safety precautions".

The company's anger is masked privately by lawyers briefed by the Treasury Solicitor on behalf of the Government, who want to leave no stone unturned in the investigation.

Dr Tony Ridley, chairman of London Underground, is certain to voice his company's concern at the ban when he gives evidence to the inquiry today.

Dr Ridley tried in vain to get the ban reversed at a meeting yesterday with Mr Robin Seymour, Chief Inspector of Railways, who is responsible for the safety of the Underground.

Dr Ridley argued that the fire would be started at night when the station was closed and would be closely controlled by the London Fire Brigade. But Mr Seymour said the brigade has expressed concern at the dangers which could arise.

The Department of Transport, which controls the Railway Inspectorate, said last night: "The decision to stop the fire tests is final and has been taken by the Railway Inspectorate and the London Fire Brigade on safety grounds."

London Underground replied: "The decision does not help us to get at the truth. Experts advising London Underground had wanted to set fire to the

ceiling of the escalator shaft where the blaze started to check the flammability of the ceiling covering made by Proclite, a West Midlands company.

They refused to accept a provisional ruling by Mr Desmond Fennell, QC, chairman of the public inquiry, that the Proclite covering was not to blame for the flashover which transformed a small outbreak into a fatal fire.

Yesterday's ban so incensed some London Underground managers that they claimed the company was being "stitched up" by the Health and Safety Executive and the Railway Inspectorate.

Officials of those bodies responded by leaking details of the "completely inadequate" safety precautions planned by London Underground which they said included "a wooden flue" to remove dangerous fumes from the escalator shaft. "It would almost certainly catch fire", one official said.

The inquiry continues today. *Spectrum*, page 14

A winning twosome



A delighted Emily Patrick, winner of the first Carroll Foundation Award for a portrait by a non-member of the Royal Society of Portrait Painters, poses with her entry and the subject of the painting, her daughter Beatrice. The award was presented yesterday at an exhibition of the society at the Mall Galleries in London (Photograph: John Rogers).

Meacher 'uncertain' on family

By Robin Young

Mr Michael Meacher, Labour's employment spokesman, denied that a disclosure in the High Court yesterday was "devastating" to his libel action against *The Observer*.

Mr Richard Hartley, QC, for *The Observer*, suggested that Mr Meacher had been reluctant to see a statement he had given to his solicitors produced in court because it contradicted evidence he gave last week.

"It does no such thing", Mr Meacher retorted. He said he had been reluctant to draw out proceedings because of his marriage to Mrs Lucianne Sawyer tomorrow.

In his latest evidence, Mr Meacher said he could not be certain that his father had ever gone to London to train as an accountant and had suffered a crippling nervous breakdown. "I am not absolutely certain therefore that this event around which this whole trial has revolved ever actually happened."

Mr Meacher is suing *The Observer* over a suggestion that he "played down" his origins to win political favour. The case will continue on June 7, the first day of the new law term.

Tax plea fails

The Peace Pledge Union, an anti-war group, lost its battle to avoid paying more than £4,000 to the Inland Revenue yesterday, when Bloomsbury County Court ruled that withholding tax — on the grounds that it would be used for military purposes — was unlawful.

Record debate

Oxford University students ended a marathon debate last night after two weeks of non-stop talking at the Oxford Union, beating by 24 hours the record of the University of Galway in the Republic of Ireland. They hope to have raised more than £2,000 for charity.

Legal appeal

The Director of Public Prosecutions is to apply to the Court of Appeal to overturn a High Court ruling earlier this week that he acted unlawfully in allowing legal unqualified clerks in the Crown Prosecution Service to screen cases for trial.

Lord's inquest

An inquest into the death of Lord Blackford, aged 26, was opened yesterday and adjourned until June 6 at Westminster Coroner's Court, central London. Lord Blackford was found dead in his flat in Chelsea on May 16.

PC honoured

PC Stephen Poulton, aged 21, is the youngest policeman in the Avon and Somerset force to receive a commendation from the area's chief constable after solving more than fifty crimes and arresting 53 people in his first year of service.

Job losses

Dunlopillo, the bedding company, is shedding more than 130 jobs at its factory at Hirwaun, South Wales, because of "uncertainty" in the industry after government legislation on foam and fire safety.

Rail posters

A board of 800 LNER posters said to be worth about £100,000 have been found under the floorboards of a cellar at the disused railway station at Wolferton on the Queen's Sandringham estate in Norfolk.

Case dropped

Mr Craig Staton, aged 17, was formally discharged by Northampton Magistrates' Court yesterday after being told a charge that he murdered Carol Baldwin, aged 12, in a park had been dropped.

Chefs' school

Bourg-en-Bresse (AFP) — Japan's largest hotel school, Tsuji, has decided to open a second campus in France to train chefs.

Computer crime warning

'Hackers are going to kill'

By Robert Matthews, Technology Correspondent

A computer crime investigator believes "hackers" will kill people unless the law is tightened to control them.

Most concern about hacking — gaining unauthorized access to computer information — is the risk of fraud by criminals with computer knowledge. However, in today's *Computer Weekly*, Detective Inspector John Austen, of New Scotland Yard's company fraud squad, says: "Computer crime is not just about fraud. If an air control or hospital system is tampered with it could lead to loss of life."

He doubted that Parliament understands the dangers hackers pose, and feared a disaster of Zebrugge propor-

tions before the law was changed.

Inspector Austen is a police representative on the British Computer Society's security committee, which has lobbied the Home Office to recommend changes be outlawed.

His remarks come after the Law Lords' decision last month that hacking for amusement is beyond the powers of the court to control. The ruling followed the appeal against conviction of two computer enthusiasts who had broken into British Telecom's electronic mail system, enabling them to read messages left for the Duke of Edinburgh.

Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice, upheld the appeal against conviction saying:

City group plans heliport on Thames

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

A group of banks and financial institutions is preparing a planning application for a heliport in the Thames near Cannon Street.

The proposal, which could be presented to the City of London Corporation within the next two months, is in response to a sudden upsurge in demand for helicopter services to bypass jams at fixed-wing airports and on roads.

The consortium is planning to spend "tens of millions of pounds" on sinking huge piles into the river bed and is convinced the heliport will be an instant success, although environmentalists are likely to oppose it.

Lord Brabazon of Tara, Under-Secretary of State for Transport, gave the scheme tentative support yesterday

after he flew from Battersea Heliport to open a new helicopter engineering facility at Hayes, west London, for McAlpine Helicopters. "I hope that private investors can come up with a scheme to enable helicopters to be used in central London although I cannot in any way pre-empt the views of any inquiry which may be necessary", he said.

McAlpine says that sales of the French Aerospatiale range which it markets in Britain have risen by 60 per cent in the first four months of this year compared with 1987 and that demand from business, hospitals and police is increasing daily.

St Bartholomew's Hospital is considering buying a helicopter, possibly with health authorities around the capital,

to act as an air ambulance and to ferry organs to patients waiting for transplants. Police forces are also becoming more interested in the helicopter both to control traffic and in criminal investigations. The main increase in demand, however, has come from companies who say traffic congestion is costing them time and money.

The number of helicopters on the British register has risen by 20 per cent in a year to more than 600 today, even though a small helicopter can cost £70,000, with running costs of £1,000 an hour. Mr Paul Durrant, chief executive of the British Helicopter Advisory Board, predicted that helicopter traffic would soar if space could be found for them to land, especially in London.

Stay of export on Poussin

by Sarah Jane Checkland

Art Market Correspondent

The National Gallery and the National Museum of Wales have, in a joint operation, obtained a one-month stay of export for "The Finding of Moses", an important work by Nicolas Poussin destined for the Getty Museum, California.

The two British museums now have until June 21 to raise £7.2 million in negotiations with anonymous benefactors.

The painting by the French artist was once in the collection of Clive of India at Powys Castle, central Wales, and has been described by Mr Neil McGregor, director of the National Gallery, as "a great picture and part of our heritage".

The museums will share the painting if they succeed in keeping it in this country.

In Paris, there is speculation over whether *Adler Picard Tajan*, the auctioneers, will be allowed to go ahead with the sale of Roberto Polo's £10 million art collection on Monday, because of the alleged failure of the financial investment adviser to pay his debts.

Police have already seized the furnishings of Polo's Paris flat, but they may also remove the rest of his valuables. Last night, however, the auctioneers insisted the sale would go ahead.

Sotbey's, meanwhile, achieved a record for the British artist Dorothea Sharp at its

Billinghurst rooms, when an impressionist painting of children feeding hens was bought by a Nottingham dealer for £61,600, double the estimate.

Two London dealers who "enhanced" a Queen Anne silver punchbowl by adding a spurious additional hallmark have been fined £500 each at Southwark Crown Court, south London, and ordered to pay compensation.

David Green, aged 49, of C J Vander Antiques, and William Chamberlain, aged 67, of Correll and Co Ltd, commissioned Edward Benad of Holloway, north London, to add the mark of William Fawcett.

The punchbowl was bought by Crawford & Pawle, the Bond Street dealers for £7,400, but was seen in their office by another dealer.

Naval 'Colossus' does not fit any strategy, says editor of Jane's Fighting Ships

'Awesome' strength of the Soviet fleet baffles the West

By Michael Evans

The Soviet Union has developed a "Colossus" of a navy, yet admirals in Moscow do not seem to know what to do with it, according to Captain Richard Sharpe, the new editor of the annual *Jane's Fighting Ships*, published yesterday.

The sheer quantity of Russian ships and submarines "induces a sense of numbness at first sight".

But there is "no operational or deployment pattern" which can readily explain why the Soviet Union has built such a large fleet.

The Russians, Captain Sharpe says, seem to prefer to keep the fleet "soggy in their

home areas rather than roaming the oceans of the world confronting the US Navy".

Captain Sharpe, who has commanded submarines and a guided missile destroyer, says in a foreword to the latest *Jane's* that this "visibly wimpy Soviet policy" at sea may be overstated. One of the most worrying explanations is that the Soviet war plan envisages a "swift breakout into the vulnerable sea lanes of the free world". This is the current Western analysis of the Soviet Union's maritime policy.

Such an option has to exist, according to Captain Sharpe, because of the huge number of submarines in the fleet. They cannot operate successfully in

home waters alone without the risk of engaging each other by mistake.

"If all the Northern Fleet's 38 strategic missile-firing submarines deployed under the ice of the Arctic Basin, each would have a reasonably-sized patrol area. If some of the 55 attack submarines were to join them in a protective ring, it might still just be possible to keep them from engaging each other by mistake."

"It is when you start to divide the ice-free area of the Barents Sea between the rest of the attack submarines, the 30 nuclear-powered cruise missile-firing and the 47 diesel boats, that the absurdity of the exercise becomes apparent, even if you discount 25 per

cent of the total as being unable to sail at less than several weeks' notice."

The greatest tactical strength of nuclear submarines, Captain Sharpe says, is not so much its ability to operate without exposing itself to radar or visual detection, but its "mobility to intercept, chase, stalk and pursue its target, or conversely, to use the environment to full effect to evade detection."

"Limit its area of operation and its tactical strength is short like Samson's locks. It is not easy to believe that the Soviets have failed to discover this for themselves, and the only playground big enough for the Northern Fleet nuclear

submarine force is the Atlantic Ocean.

"Apply the same logic to the Pacific Fleet, and you have to find sufficient water for 69 nuclear submarines and 41 diesel boats."

Furthermore, he says, the Soviet submarine and warship construction programme continues to be "impressive, if not spectacular."

A new class of cruise missile-firing nuclear submarines is believed to be under construction to carry long-range SS-NX-24 weapons, currently undergoing trials in a converted Yankee class submarine.

The Russians are launching a new nuclear submarine every seven weeks and a con-

ventional submarine every 10 weeks, although most of the latter are for export.

The strength of the Soviet Navy is "its awesome numbers, the fire-power of its weapons systems, the simplicity and reliability of its propulsion machinery... and the worldwide logistic support it can summon from the state-owned merchant and fishing fleet."

Its weaknesses include "lack of experience of its officers in taking tactical decisions, the quality of the concepts, its preference for spending time in harbour, the sensor technology gap with the West and the lack of any consistent attempt to train at sea other than in set-piece exercises".

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President Reagan talks to The Times on the eve of his historic summit meeting in Moscow

Gorbachov 'sincere about progress'

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

The partial text of President Reagan's interview with *The Times*, *Die Welt* of West Germany, *Le Soir* of Belgium, *Il Giornale* of Italy and *Le Figaro* of France.

Question: What do you regard as Mr Gorbachov's main qualities?
President Reagan: He is very forthright. We can get into discussions where perhaps we're disagreeing quite firmly and yet there is no personal animus in that with him. I think he solidly represents his country. I have suspected sometimes that he, having been raised in that particular country from childhood, believes some of their propaganda about us. But we can debate and discuss, and I think he is very sincere about the progressive ideas that he is

Washington — The chief Senate opponent of the INF Treaty conceded defeat yesterday, apparently clearing the way for approval of the pact (AP reports). "I'm licked in terms of doing anything on the treaty," said the conservative Republican, Senator Jesse Helms, raising hopes that the accord could be approved for ratification by tomorrow and forwarded to President Reagan in time for the summit.

introducing there and the changes that he thinks should be made. But even if the discussion gets well, pretty meaningful, there is no animus. When it's over, I think that there's actually a degree of friendship between us.

Question: According to the State Department we are moving toward an agreement that would allow American psychiatrists to visit Soviet mental hospitals to determine if dissidents are being imprisoned there. Do you think that a formal agreement could be ironed out during your visit to Moscow?

President: I'm hopeful that it can... Some of these things with regard to human rights is not just trying to interfere with their internal affairs at all... It is to try and impress them with the need to eliminate some of the things that have grown with their system that are unfair treatment...

Question: Could you assess the prospects for a strategic arms treaty with the Soviet Union before you leave office on January 20? And do you see any possibility of another

summit with Mr Gorbachov later this year to sign such an agreement?

President: Well I won't rule it out. I won't say it's impossible. I don't think there's any way now that the Start agreement could come to a signing point in this summit. It is a far more complex treaty than the INF Treaty that we did agree upon. Now with ratification of that, I think that this summit will advance us further in the Start discussions, and those people of ours and theirs that have been negotiating in Geneva on this will continue. And I hope that it can come about while I'm still here, and I think they feel the same way just because they believe that there would be perhaps unnecessary delay than if you had to wait while a newcomer in this office settled in and got around to working with them. And so I would hope that we can iron out the still undecided points before I leave. I could see where we might decide that it should be signed in a meeting, rather than several thousand miles apart when the signatures take place. And I've wondered, then, if perhaps the — since we will have each been to each other's country, rather than try to choose which country to do it in, maybe we'd pick a neutral locale.

Question: The question of whether the NATO allies are bearing their fair share of the Western defence burden has triggered an important foreign policy debate. What is your view about the burden-sharing problem?

President: If we take it on a percentage of our gross national income, we are perhaps having a higher figure in our defence spending than our trading partners are in NATO. We have believed that since our Congress is making it more difficult for us to continue our rate of spending in defence, that maybe our allies could increase their share somewhat. I don't think it is a problem that should cause any ill will between us...

Question: We had these developments in Hungary last weekend, and we had a peaceful change of power in Czechoslovakia last year. Could this be the beginning of a process which could reach the communist hierarchy in Romania, Bulgaria and East Germany? President: I think that is pos-



President and Mrs Reagan waving goodbye to the rain to well-wishers and staff at the White House yesterday as they left for Helsinki en route to the Moscow summit with Mr Mikhail Gorbachov. "I do not expect it to be easy," Mr Reagan said.

sible. I think we can't rule out the fact that there was an age problem (in Hungary); that one man had been there quite a long time. And this is a younger man... it probably is a good thing to see happening with those countries, that *glasnost* is practised in them also.

Question: Your Panama policy seems to be in deep trouble. You rejected a military solution to overthrow General Noriega, and your economic sanctions have so far failed to force him out, despite inflicting grievous harm on the Panamanian economy. And now Vice-President Bush is saying that he opposes the dropping of drugs charges against General Noriega. Where does your Panama policy go now?

President: Well, I — he and I disagree on that. I recognize how it looks to some people with regard to that as part of our effort. We feel — and I think he (Mr Bush) is aligned with this — that the goal must be the removal of Noriega from power. He is a military dictator. Here is a man who is able to actually drive the President of Panama into hiding for literally fear of his life, and he is an absolute dictator. Now that is the goal. We tried to do that with economic measures; they didn't succeed. We are still in a position of negotiating. Our representatives are down there right now. I have to say the process is still going on. There has been no decision reached. When lawyers in this country got an indictment against Noriega on the basis of dealing with the drug dealers, they overlooked... the fact that the Panamanian constitution

makes it impossible to extradite this man in response to indictment. Well then, you have to say the alternative is that he stays there in power and able to continue his drug trafficking. And if it means quashing an indictment that cannot be enforced, I would suggest that that's not too high a price to pay for getting rid of him.

Question: How would you like to be remembered?
President: I would like to feel that what I have left will be continued, the economic policies and the restraints on government. When we came into office our defence capacity had been so reduced that on any given day, 50 per cent of our military aircraft could not fly for lack of spare parts. 50 per cent of our naval vessels couldn't leave harbour for the same reason or for lack

of crew. I had promised in the campaign that I was going to restore our military. Well, we not only did that but at the same time there was a great wave of feeling across our country that, well, that things weren't the way they used to be and there was a lack of patriotism. I said I thought the people were ready for a spiritual revival.

Europe sends firm defence message to US and Russia

From Richard Owen, Brussels

With one eye on the Moscow summit and the other on the US presidential election, NATO's European members yesterday launched a campaign to persuade the superpowers that Europe means business in formulating a "cohesive European defence".

In a report issued at the start of a three-day meeting of NATO defence ministers, the "Eurogroup" — chaired by Mr William van Eekelen, the Dutch Defence Minister — said that Mr Mikhail Gorbachov's advent to power had not significantly altered the military facts. Moscow still had forces which could launch a surprise attack on Western Europe or be used for "blackmail and intimidation".

The report, *The European Role in NATO*, warns the United States that Europe was already carrying much of the defence burden. "It would be unrealistic to expect sudden and substantial increases in defence budgets on either side of the Atlantic," it said.

The debate on burden sharing comes at a time when many Europeans are hoping for further disarmament. "It is difficult to persuade our public to support higher defence spending when they see the superpowers dismantling weapons or pulling back troops," one European diplomat said. "What we are trying to say to our public and the superpowers alike is that Europe needs America, but will keep up its own guard by using resources better and pooling them."

NATO officials suspect that Mr Gorbachov, having pulled Moscow out of the "Afghan quagmire", will announce the unilateral withdrawal of up to 100,000 Soviet troops from Eastern Europe during or after the Moscow summit, putting pressure on the US to withdraw a similar number of American forces from Western Europe.

European leaders hope ratification of the INF treaty will be followed by "real progress" toward a 50 per cent reduction in strategic armaments.

Above all, European officials hope the Moscow sum-

mit meeting will give fresh impetus to talks in Vienna on conventional force reductions and human rights issues as part of the European security process.

In their report, the NATO "Eurogroup" — all NATO's European members except France and Iceland — said the INF deal, though welcome, "will not of itself bring about any fundamental change in the security situation in Europe". Europe alone could not deter Moscow and the North American commitment to Europe remained essential.

But moves toward a joint European defence, including bilateral defence arrangements and collaborative ventures like the European Fighter Aircraft, reflected a wider European desire for integration, the Eurogroup declared.

The report, clearly aimed above all at the US Congress and US presidential candidates, said the European allies already provided 95 per cent of NATO's divisions, 96 per cent of its artillery, and 80 per cent of its tanks and aircraft.

European defence spending had increased overall by 34 per cent since 1978 — compared to only 15 per cent in the US — with most of the increase going on conventional improvements. Britain and France operated nuclear forces, and seven of the allies had provided bases for US nuclear weapons.

Most of all, many Americans did not realize that Europe provided housing, food and communications for NATO troops.

In other words, "legitimate American concerns" about burden sharing had to be met, the report said. But whatever disarmament deals emerged in future, Washington had to realize that Europe was already shouldering "toughly its fair share" of defence.

If American defence spending remained higher, the Eurogroup report said bluntly, this reflected "both the role of the US as a superpower with global responsibilities, and its greater per capita wealth".

WORLD ROUNDUP

Japan to reduce whisky tax bias

Tokyo — A special tax committee has recommended that rates on Japanese domestic liquor be raised by 75 per cent to help to meet British criticism of discriminatory taxation on whisky (David Watts writes). But yesterday's recommendation by the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's research committee on taxation would still leave a tenfold differential between tax on whisky and that on high-grade *shochu*, a clear spirit prepared from potatoes.

A large increase in tax on sake is also anticipated, while there would be a modest increase in duty on whisky to 1,011 yen (about £4.39) per litre, according to the committee. The Government has said it will unify the tax system on whisky, replacing the present heavy taxation on imported bottled whisky, which is taxed much more heavily than imported malt on which the domestic industry is heavily dependent.

The committee has separated the liquor tax question from the package of tax reforms that it is considering — something the Government has always said it could not do.

Hope of Noriega deal

Washington — Mr George Shultz, the American Secretary of State, yesterday postponed his departure for Helsinki en route to Moscow to oversee negotiations in the hope of reaching a speedy deal for the removal of General Manuel Noriega of Panama (Christopher Thomas writes). The talks were at a critical stage last night, with US officials suggesting that General Noriega would announce his intentions in a speech. US sources said that elements of a deal included General Noriega's resignation as defence force commander and his leaving Panama in September. In return, US drugs charges against him would be dropped.

Chinese football riot

Peking (Reuter) — Thousands of Chinese football fans attacked police and besieged a rival team's hotel during a night-long riot in which 135 people were injured and more than 40 arrested, according to official reports here yesterday. The rioters fought armed police with sticks, stones, bottles and fire extinguishers at Nanchoing, in Sichuan province after a draw between the Sichuan and Tianjin youth teams put the home side out of a national competition. It was the gravest sporting violence since riots in Peking in 1985, when China lost a World Cup qualifying match to Hong Kong. Uefa warning, page 48

Azerbaijani expelled

Moscow (AFP) — The former Communist Party chief in the Azerbaijan region of Nagorno-Karabakh, who was dismissed after ethnic unrest among Armenians, has also been expelled from the party. The expulsion of Mr Boris Kevorkov, who had served as Nagorno-Karabakh first secretary for 15 years, had been demanded by a meeting of the Azerbaijan Central Committee.

In Nagorno-Karabakh's main town, Stepanakert, a general protest strike continued for the fourth day yesterday. It was the second series of strikes in less than two months.

Marcos in hospital

Honolulu (AFP) — The exiled former Philippines President, Mr Ferdinand Marcos, aged 70, has been taken to hospital here with chest pains. A spokesman for the St Francis Medical Centre said that he would be having examinations in the medical centre in Honolulu, where he has lived since being ousted in a popular revolt in February 1986. Mr Marcos spent a short time in the centre last October for the removal of a parathyroid gland which was causing him chronic leg pains.

Official figures clear way for Moscow to honour those killed in Afghanistan

General says 13,310 Soviet troops died in war

From Michael Binyon, Moscow

A Soviet general yesterday said that 13,310 Soviet soldiers had been killed, 35,478 wounded, and 311 reported missing during the 8½-year war in Afghanistan.

At a press conference yesterday on the Soviet pull-out from Afghanistan, General Alexei Lizichev, the head of the Army and Navy's Chief Political Directorate, described these as the inevitable losses in any war.

He said the Soviet Union would take steps to find out what had happened to those reported missing, many of them taken prisoner by the Afghan rebels. Russia grieved over those who were killed, but its soldiers were returning home with heads held high.

General Lizichev said that 9,500 Soviet servicemen and nearly 1,000 units of military equipment had been withdrawn so far from Afghanistan. But he refused repeatedly to give a total figure for forces still in the country, estimated before the pull-out began at some 115,000 troops.

"We will continue to with-

draw. Those who try to hinder us by force of arms will be decisively crushed," he said.

At the same time Mr Yuli Vorontsov, the First Deputy Soviet Foreign Minister, warned Pakistan not to allow arms to continue to flow to the Afghan guerrillas from Pakistani territory. "If the Pakistani side fails to abide by the Geneva agreement, we will react as required by the circumstances," he said.

Important contributing factors to the Soviet Union's withdrawal from Afghanistan were widespread drug and alcohol abuse by its troops, diseases caused by poor hygiene, desertions and brutal in-fighting, the Santa Monica-based Rand Corporation said in a report issued this week.

According to its author, Mr Alexander Alexiev, those problems played a big part in persuading Soviet military officials to pull out their troops after an unsuccessful eight-year effort to defeat Afghan guerrilla forces.

"The Soviet Army had all kinds of problems, exacerbated by the fact that this is a poor place that is not endowed with modern amenities," Mr Alexiev noted. "Low morale and motivation were two reasons that the Soviet performance was lacklustre, to say the least."

The author based his find-

ings on interviews with Afghan guerrilla leaders and 35 former Soviet servicemen who fought in Afghanistan, including prisoners of war and defectors.

The report, compiled by the Southern California "think tank" for the US Army, is the first detailed examination of Soviet armed forces in post-Second World War combat that relies upon first-hand information, according to Rand officials.

While some observers say there is a great deal of similarity between Russia's role in Afghanistan and the US involvement in Vietnam, Mr Alexiev says there were important differences in the two wars.

US withdrawal came about because of political pressure in the US. "In the Soviet case what happened first was the realization that they could not win militarily. It was a diffi-

cult decision and a major reversal of Soviet policy. For the first time they have essentially admitted defeat," he noted.

The interviews done for the report noted that more than 50 per cent of the Soviet troops regularly used drugs, including hashish, heroin, opium and marijuana. Most of the former soldiers said that the drugs were popular because they were cheap and easily available, unlike vodka.

One soldier told a Rand researcher that the Soviet troops showed great inventiveness in finding alcoholic substitutes.

"They also drank truck antifreeze, glue and brake fluid," one soldier is quoted as saying. "They will also take shoe polish and smear it on a piece of bread and leave it in the sun until the alcohol separates from the shoe polish." Drug and alcohol abuse was so widespread in the Soviet

Army that it is likely to have a negative effect on Soviet society long after the troops have returned home, the report noted.

Lack of running water led to a "dismal health situation" and outbreaks of diseases such as hepatitis, malaria and typhus, which reached near-epidemic proportions. The conditions led to frequent desertions and "open and even organized insubordination". With deteriorating morale, there were some suicides among troops.

In addition the report says Soviet troops were guilty of officially sanctioned reprisals and brutal acts against the civilian populations.

"We were struck by our own cruelty in Afghanistan," a soldier is quoted as saying. "We executed innocent peasants. If one of ours was killed or wounded, we would kill women, children as revenge."

lurch, at the mercy of the increasingly bold guerrilla groups. Mr Vorontsov accused the fundamentalist faction headed by Mr Gulbuddin Hekmatyar of "seeking to impose a bloody trial of strength on the Afghan people". And he accused the Americans of continuing to provide arms for the rebels.

Some of the aid that Washington insists it has the right to continue sending the rebels had found its way into the hands of Iran, he said. Soviet officials had established that 33 Stinger missiles had been sold by guerrillas to Iranian agents, and 10 more were sold

US casualties in the Vietnam War were: deaths — 58,135 (including 2,413 missing in action); injuries — 153,363.

to Iranian drug smugglers. Each fetched around \$300,000 (£160,600) for the Afghans.

General Lizichev made much of the assistance Soviet troops had given to the Afghans, saying they had built or repaired 168 schools, 44 hospitals, 35 mosques, 352 bridges of flats and 570 miles of roads and 249 bridges.

● Troops criticized: General Dmitry Yazov, the Soviet Defence Minister, sharply criticized the performance of Soviet troops based in East Germany, the armed forces newspaper, *Krasnaya Zvezda*, said yesterday (Reuter reports).

It said General Yazov had denounced Communist Party members among the troops for failing to implement Kremlin reforms at a time when increased defence readiness was needed.



General Lizichev: Soldiers back with 'heads held high'.

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Pretoria policemen convicted of killing black

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

Two white South African policemen were convicted yesterday of murdering a black youth after beating him so savagely that they were afraid to leave him alive to bear witness to their brutality.

The Supreme Court in Grahamstown in the eastern Cape found the two men, Warrant Officer Leon de Villiers, aged 37, and Constable David Goosen, aged 27, guilty of the death of Mingsisi Stuurman, aged 18, in Cradock in July, 1986.

The judge, Mr Justice N. W. Zietsman, will hear evidence in mitigation before passing sentence. Under South African law, the death penalty is mandatory for murder

unless the judge finds there are extenuating circumstances.

If Judge Zietsman does impose the death penalty on De Villiers and Goosen, they will be the second pair of white policemen to be sentenced to hang this year for the murder of blacks.

Nearly all the evidence against the two policemen came from fellow-members of an all-white police anti-riot squad which, the court heard, went on an unauthorized "black-bashing" expedition in the black section of Cradock, a small rural town in the eastern Cape where there was much unrest in 1985 and 1986.

Members of the squad testified that before the fray into the black township they drank heavily and

took part in a bizarre oath-taking ceremony in which they slashed their arms with knives, mingled their blood and swore each other to secrecy.

Among several blacks the squad arrested the next day while on patrol at a funeral was Mr Stuurman, apparently for no better reason than that he was wearing a T-shirt indicating membership of a local youth organization with the slogan: "Forward people's power" on the back.

After the youth had been severely beaten, according to police witnesses, De Villiers said: "This boy must be taken out. He is too badly injured to detain." The court was told that Mr Stuurman was then taken to a river bank where Goosen

shot him in the neck.

Goosen made out a report about slipping and shooting the youth accidentally, a story that his colleagues initially backed. Later, however, they broke down and confessed the truth to police interrogators.

Defence counsel argued that Goosen had been suffering from "post-traumatic stress disorder", or Vietnam syndrome, and that his shooting of Mr Stuurman had been an unconscious "reflex" action.

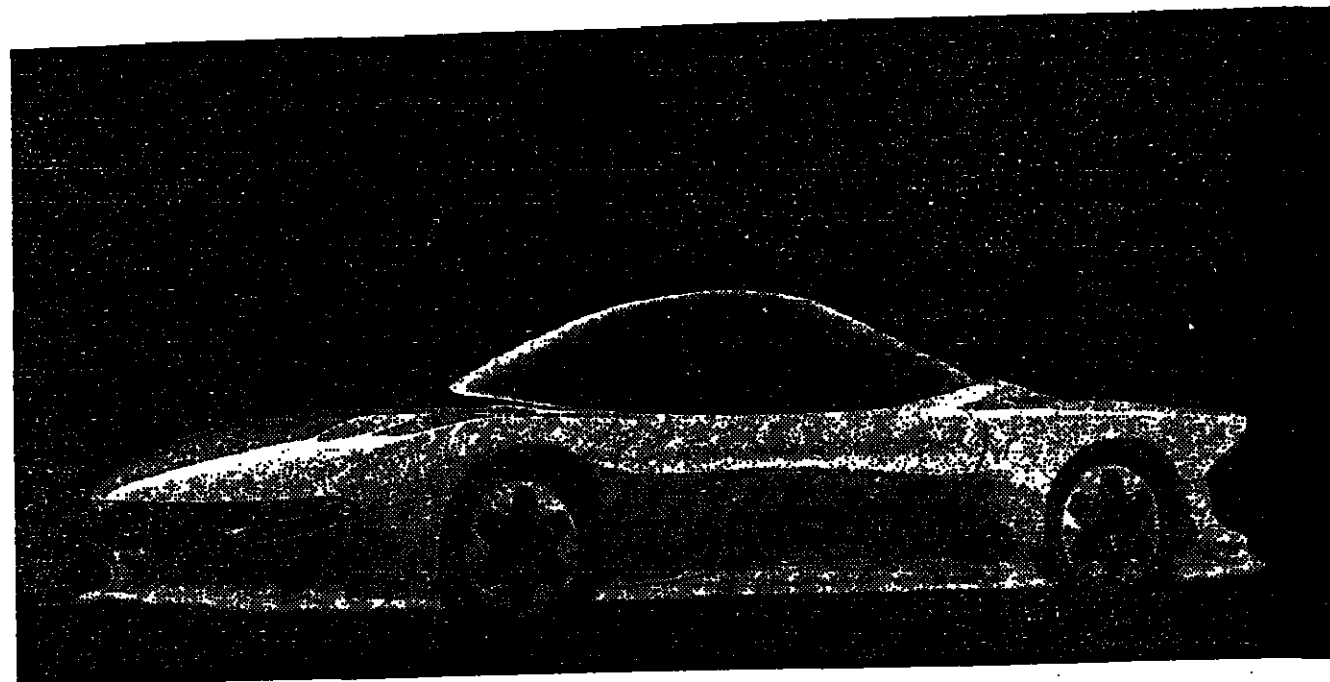
This mental state, described as a "nervous fear", had been induced by previous experience of dealing with black unrest, it was claimed. The judge found that the two policemen had planned the killing and Goosen had then carried it out.

The judge praised police investigators for pursuing their inquiries into the case despite the attempt at a cover-up.

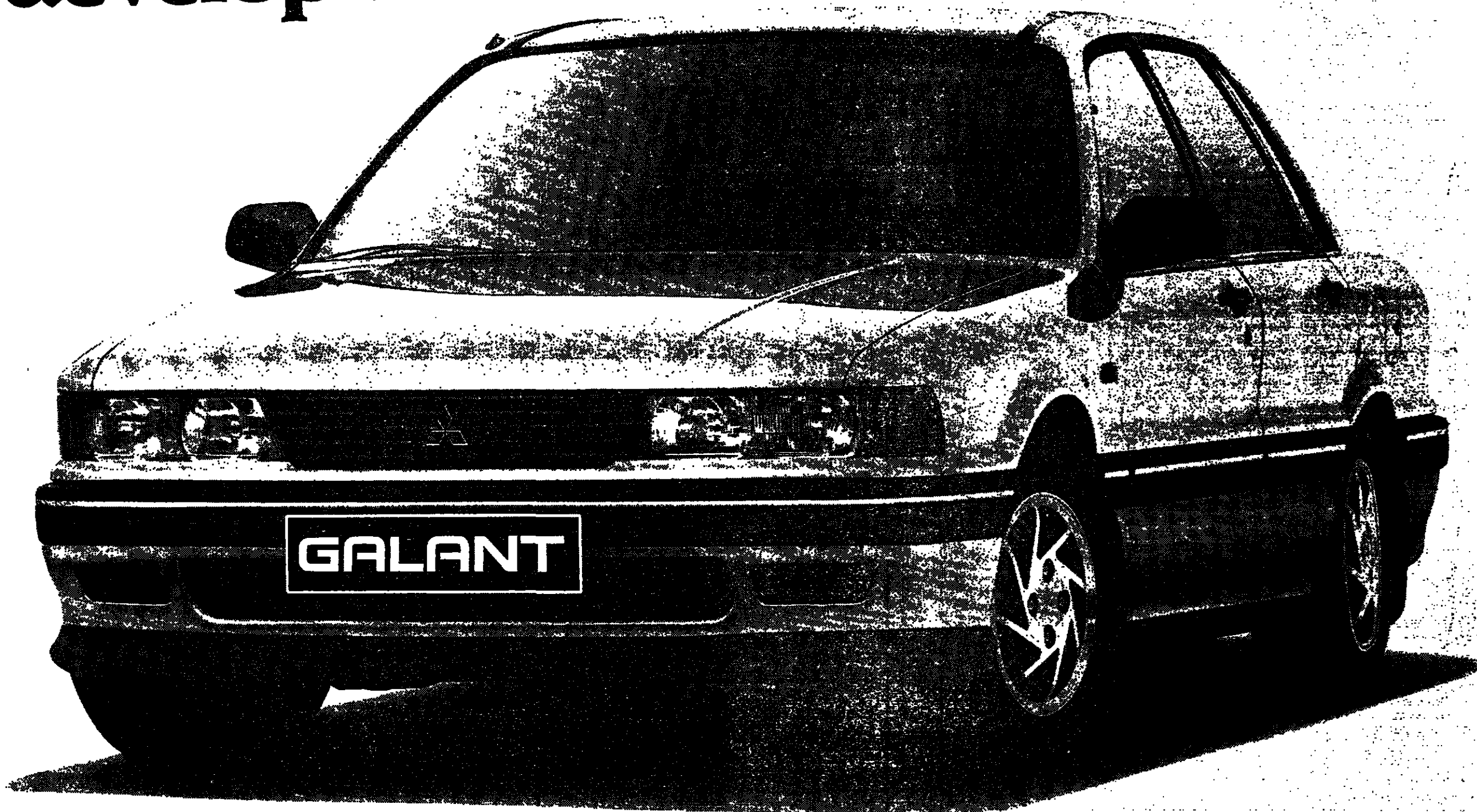
● BONN: West Germany, which currently holds the presidency of the European community, issued a strong warning to South Africa yesterday not to block Community aid to black groups oppressed by apartheid (Reuter reports).

Heinrich Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the Foreign Minister, said at a reception marking the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Organisation of African Unity: "We will not put up with Pretoria's persecuting either the black or the extent of its assistance to victims of apartheid and their organizations."

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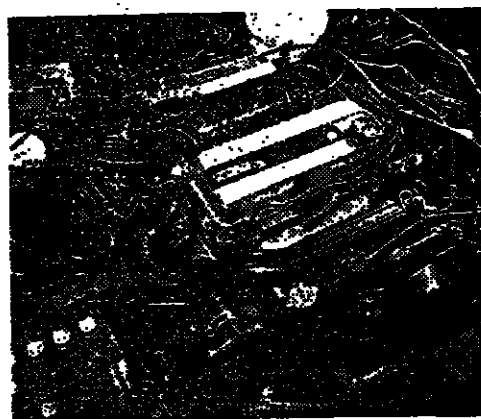
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MITSUBISHI MOTORS **Leading the way**

Birthday release by Seoul ends ordeal of political prisoner

By David Watts

A brutal episode in South Korean efforts to repress opposition ended with the release on his 40th birthday of Mr. Soh Joon Shik, a political prisoner for 17 years.

The decision to release Mr. Soh was taken by the Ministry of Justice on Tuesday, but there was no word on the fate of his elder brother Mr. Soh Sung, aged 42, who has also been held since 1971, nor on the estimated 45 other Koreans born in Japan held in South Korean jails.

Mr. Soh Sung was horribly burnt during torture and photographs taken in the early 1970s show him with thick scars on his neck and mouth. Even after his release, Mr. Soh may live only where the Government instructs him and he is not free to move about South Korea or leave the country without permission.

The two men have been the subject of a long-running, worldwide effort to win their freedom. The decision to release Mr. Soh Joon Shik, aged 38, is likely to bring demands for the freedom of many other political prisoners when the National Assembly takes up the question on Monday.

The story of the brothers

and their extraordinary suffering at the hands of jailers has been well-known in Japan for many years, and their letters to their family in Kyoto were published.

It is the story of two young men growing up Korean in Japan in an atmosphere of prejudice against which they reacted, unlike many others, by refusing to hide their Korean identity. There are some 650,000 Koreans living in Japan, most of whom were born in the country and speak Japanese but who are not granted Japanese citizenship.

The brothers felt their Korean identity so strongly that they decided to study in Seoul, where they began to attend the National University. Like others in a similar position, they felt the division of Korea and its subordination to Japan very keenly. They sought not only democracy for South Koreans but unification with the North, in terms that mean communism to the South Korean authorities.

Both were arrested in 1971 for alleged spying on behalf of North Korea. After serving a seven-year sentence on the espionage charge, Mr. Soh was detained under the Public Security Law, which provides

for detention of those who have been convicted of communist activities to prevent them doing something similar. He has been held under that law since, with renewals every two years.

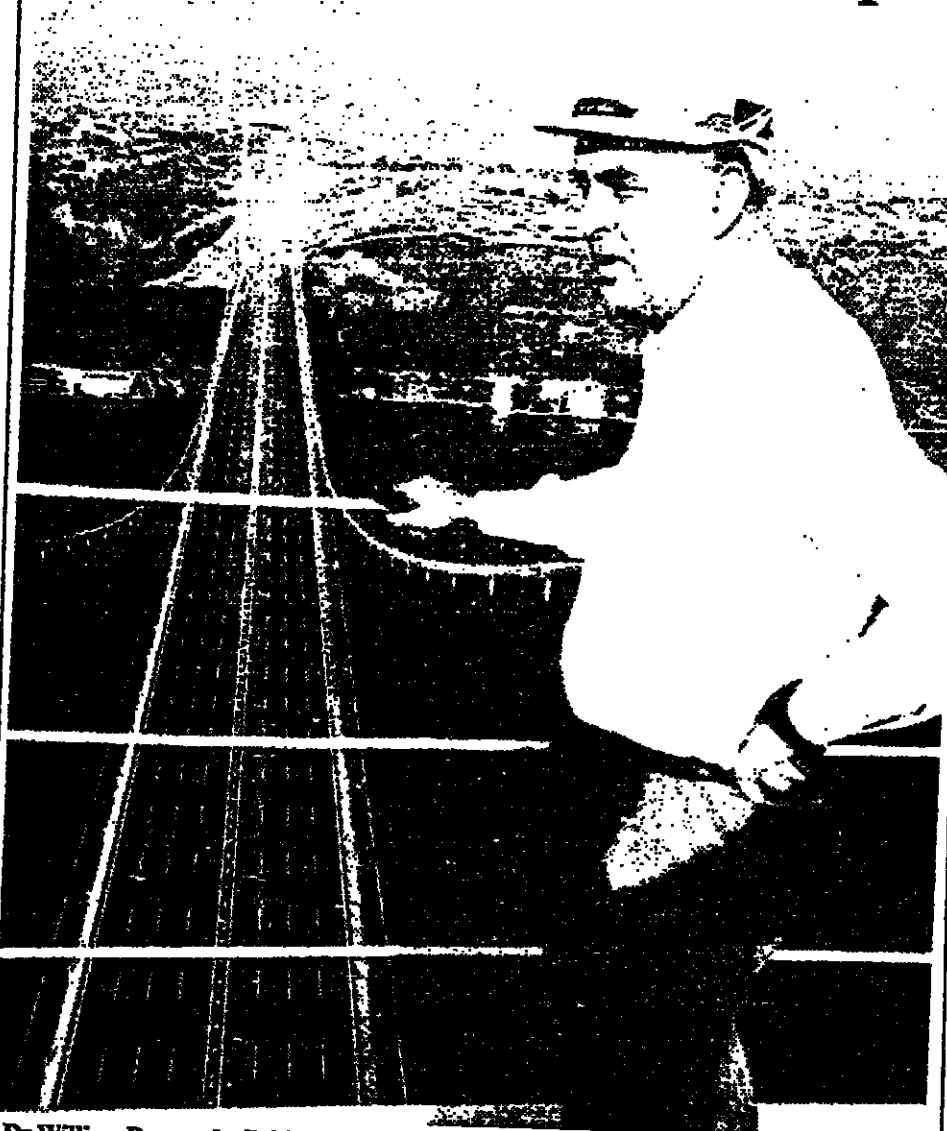
Under the Korean belief that such prisoners must not only be made to admit their communist beliefs but also turned into agents of anti-communism, Mr. Soh and his brother spent most of the time in solitary confinement and were subjected to horrific beatings at the hands of criminals in the same prison.

In Teagan prison, where Mr. Soh was held for many years, prisoners had no heating in winter temperatures of -10C and there was one part-time doctor for 4,000 prisoners.

Mr. Soh Joon Shik told a visiting Japanese member of Parliament, in front of the warden of Kwangju prison in 1974, that he had been forced to drink four kettlesful of water and then the guards would stamp on his stomach.

"The torture and terrorism were so bad that I decided to kill myself... but I didn't because this isn't only the problem of my elder brother and myself, but of all political prisoners."

Briton's Bosphorus triumph



Dr. William Brown, the British chief engineer of the second Bosphorus Bridge, looking down on his handiwork linking the Asian and European sectors of Istanbul. The bridge will be open to traffic on Sunday, several months in advance of the scheduled date.

Librarians shelve FBI demand to report on 'spies'

From Charles Bremner, New York

Karl Marx would not last long in an American reading room, at least not if the FBI had its way. The "Feds" are asking America's librarians to report anyone with a thick foreign accent who comes in and asks for research material.

US librarians have not taken kindly to the idea of playing James Bond for the security agency, which has recently aroused left-wing anger and landed back in the Congressional dock for taking too much interest in citizens' political activities.

"The role of libraries as impartial information resources is essential for a democratic society and must not be compromised," said Mr. James Schmidt, chairman of an American Library Association watchdog committee. "Library staffs should not be turned into closet spies."

The FBI insists it has no intention of snooping on innocent citizens.

It says it is simply reacting to a massive Soviet drive to vacuum scientific and technical information from research libraries and to recruit agents there.

"The Soviet Union routinely attempts to develop librarians as sources of information or recruit them as agents," said Mr. Milt Ahlerich, an assistant director of the

FBI, writing in the newspaper *USA Today*.

The FBI thought up its programme in 1986 after the arrest in New York of Mr. Gennady Zakharov, a junior Soviet official who recruited a student in a local library and paid him to collect data on robotics, computers and artificial intelligence.

In the past few months, FBI men have been appearing in libraries around the country explaining how to recognize a potential foreign agent.

At the University of Maryland, they asked for data on the reading habits of people with foreign-sounding names. In Fort Lauderdale, they said they were concerned about local "agitators" and asked for access to computer records.

"What's the next step? Classifying road maps because they show where bridges are for terrorists to blow up?" asked Mrs. Jais Barrett, of the Association of Research Libraries.

Western intelligence officials have long been concerned at the extent to which the Russians are able to collect a huge amount of technical data simply by subscribing to journals and visiting libraries.

Judging by the reaction to the FBI's efforts, Americans believe the principles of a free society outweigh the need to impose controls.

Malaysia's industrial drive

Mahathir intent on heading off ethnic conflicts

From Rodney Tyler, Kuala Lumpur

Malaysia is about to complete a \$1.3 billion defence contract with Britain — adding to a \$1.6 billion water supply contract signed last year.

The two deals are indicative of the determination of the Prime Minister, Dato Sri Dr Mahathir Mohamed, to haul his country, however unwillingly, into the late 20th century and to make it one of the Far East's more successful new industrialized countries.

But progress of such a radical nature — involving an element of social engineering which even he describes as "changing the character of the people" — is not being achieved without a certain amount of criticism and unrest.

Dr Mahathir denies the charges of his critics that in attempting to implement his plans for Malaysia he is behaving like a dictator and

must also feel they are getting a share of the cake.

At the root of these charges, he admits, is fear of a repetition of the bloody ethnic riots of 1969, when hundreds of all three races were slaughtered. "We simply cannot let that happen ever again," Dr Mahathir said. "It happened because the Malays felt insecure and economically deprived and these feelings were exploited by certain people."

"No one wants a return to that. That is what we tell the Chinese and the Indians. It is no good anyone prospering if, at the end of the day, it is going to end in rioting and killing which will destroy all we have built up. I foresaw the '69 riots and was expelled from my party (the United Malay National Organisation) for voicing my fears and what I saw to be the solution."

The Prime Minister said: "All the signs were there that the tensions were building up again. People were not sending their children to school. The supermarket shelves were bare people were stockpiling food. Certain papers began to stir up racial feelings."

"You cannot wait until the killing starts before you act. Much as I dislike detention without trial, that was the only remedy we could find for this situation. These papers were shut down for a while, but they are now open again, and 130 people were arrested — most of whom have since been released."

It was these actions which have led to widespread criticism of Dr Mahathir in recent months and, indirectly, led to a challenge to him from within his own party. At one stage, the venerable Tunku Abdul Rahman, Malaysia's first Prime Minister after independence, accused him of setting up a dictatorship.

Is Dr Mahathir, aged 62, accumulating an unhealthy concentration of power in his hands, as his enemies believe? The Prime Minister said: "Let me tell you — the moment I find I am no longer wanted, I will step down. But I will not allow myself to be pushed over by anybody."

Malaysia's struggle to join the first division of the new industrialized nations on the Pacific rim led, for a while, to a cooling of relations with Britain.

Dr Mahathir called for a "look east" policy, but desisted that it was anti-British. He claims he was merely trying to argue that contracts should not go automatically to Britain if the same goods and services were available more cheaply from Japan, South Korea and Taiwan.

"We have a lot to learn from these countries if we are to catch up. At the same time — this was before Mrs Thatcher had taken a grip on the situation — we would look at the west and see a regression into laziness," he said.

"Now that your country has changed, Mrs Thatcher came here and got very aggressive with us about business. Your ministers come here and they fight for contracts. That is very impressive. That is why we gave a British company a \$1.6 billion water supply contract last year — and why we have agreed, in principle, on the weapons deal."



Dr Mahathir: Determined to achieve industrial success.

destroying democracy, and that he has muzzled the judiciary and subverted his own party. But he admits that the dual task of giving the indigenous Malays a greater stake in the economy and making it less dependent on raw materials — rubber, tin, oil and palm oil — is huge and has caused problems.

He said: "We could not go on the way we were, almost totally dependent on the basic commodities — nor could we go on with 80 per cent of the wealth of the country in the hands of the Chinese, who were only 35 per cent of the population, while the Malays, who were nearly 50 per cent, had only 1 per cent of the wealth. It is not an easy task, nor are there any easy solutions."

"Quite simply, what we are trying to do is to change the face of Malaysia and to change the character of the people to equip them for that change. The indigenous people simply were not going into business on their own, which was no good. So we decided on privatization, to make the people stand on their own two feet."

"Many of them preferred to work for the Government. In many cases, they were getting more money, they didn't have the discipline of business, and it didn't matter if they made a profit or loss."

The Prime Minister said: "We always have the opposition parties at our heels, so we must be careful not to go too fast, not to apply too much pressure."

"But we are getting there. We have to keep all racial groups happy — or not too unhappy. We have to give more to the Malays so that they can catch up, but the Chinese and the Indians (10 per cent of the population)



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CALL LOG REPORT						
CALL TO	NUMBER CALLED	DATE	TIME	BILLABLE DURATION MINS/SECS	COST CENTRE	COST £
MANCHESTER	8344747	25/MAR/88	20:45	26:27	11	0.992
WASHINGTON D.C.	2028636151	25/MAR/88	23:01	5:27	22	2.621
LEEDS	634179	27/MAR/88	12:34	11:34	11	0.434
EDINBURGH	2726410	28/MAR/88	10:51	8:43	11	0.972
MERCURY PAGING	0523523523	28/MAR/88	11:09	0:25	11	0.030
LONDON	5282600	28/MAR/88	20:40	13:34	11	0.509
GLASGOW	2484126	28/MAR/88	21:43	8:37	22	0.323
ELKINGTON, SHEFFIELD	2791	29/MAR/88	18:07	19:16	33	0.482
VODAFONE	0836281160	30/MAR/88	11:14	3:11	11	1.047
LONDON	5282000	30/MAR/88	21:01	7:34	22	0.284
NEW YORK	2129764141	30/MAR/88	23:50	9:16	11	4.457
WENSLEYDALE, LEYBURN	1648	31/MAR/88	11:00	1:20	33	0.156
SOUTH ELMSALL, PONTEFRAC.	01704	31/MAR/88	21:31	23:52	33	0.895
W. YORKS	297	01/APR/88	7:02	15:25	11	0.385
CRANWELL, SLEAFORD, Lincs	431746	01/APR/88	18:56	17:56	11	0.673
LIVERPOOL	8344747	01/APR/88	22:56	10:57	11	0.411
MANCHESTER	5860768	02/APR/88	8:27	9:16	33	7.200
HONG KONG	5282500	02/APR/88	13:02	12:31	11	0.469
LONDON	722995	03/APR/88	11:28	5:01	22	0.206
ABERDEEN	260861	04/APR/88	20:52	16:42	11	0.685
CHELMSFORD	0836281160	05/APR/88	15:47	2:31	11	0.828
VODAFONE	0523523523	05/APR/88	18:03	0:41	11	0.000
MERCURY PAGING	431746	06/APR/88	15:40	17:44	11	1.504
LIVERPOOL	2529111	06/APR/88	21:16	7:04	11	2.073
DENMARK	260861	06/APR/88	22:48	16:37	33	0.681
CHELMSFORD	722995	07/APR/88	21:23	15:12	22	0.380
ABERDEEN	260	09/APR/88	14:38	9:35	11	0.239
TORKSEY, LINCOLN	632219	09/APR/88	14:59	12:34	33	0.515
SOUTHAMPTON	0898600231	09/APR/88	21:01	4:03	22	0.994
INFO/ENTERTAINMENT	425254	10/APR/88	19:06	12:33	11	0.471
LEEDS	3878786	10/APR/88	19:19	2:33	22	0.096
LONDON	6435939	10/APR/88	19:23	0:39	22	0.030
BIRMINGHAM	431746	11/APR/88	12:08	12:47	11	1.084
LIVERPOOL	267722	11/APR/88	16:36	10:18	11	0.873
LEEDS	220584346	11/APR/88	20:43	3:41	22	1.080
GERMAN FED. REP (WEST)	8344747	12/APR/88	8:52	4:06	11	0.348
MANCHESTER	371127	12/APR/88	9:05	7:09	11	0.838
BELFAST	1278	12/APR/88	9:07	8:51	33	0.860
KIBWORTH, LEICESTER	3879191	12/APR/88	10:45	3:27	22	0.385
LONDON	355	12/APR/88	10:50	0:39	33	0.076
BURY, PULBOROUGH, W. SUSSEX	260	12/APR/88	18:21	2:53	11	0.072
TORKSEY, LINCOLN	2484126	13/APR/88	19:15	12:05	33	0.453
GLASGOW	0523523523	13/APR/88	14:12	0:58	11	0.053
MERCURY PAGING	5282000	14/APR/88	11:30	3:17	22	0.366
LONDON	2791	14/APR/88	18:45	15:11	11	0.379
ELKINGTON, SHEFFIELD	631192	14/APR/88	19:20	8:29	11	0.318
LIVERPOOL	6410	14/APR/88	21:19	6:54	11	0.283
BOGNOR REGIS, W. SUSSEX	61811688	16/APR/88	00:24	9:14	11	5.850
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May 25 1988

PARLIAMENT

Property agency to be put on business basis

The Government has decided that the Property Services Agency, which is responsible for the management and maintenance of government buildings and land, should become a commercial organization, Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment, announced in a statement.

He outlined changes which were designed to "put the PSA to outside competition as rapidly as possible, and to equip the PSA to compete effectively".

But Dr John Cunningham, chief Opposition spokesman on the environment, dismissed Mr Ridley's arguments as bogus and said the real aim was to prepare the PSA for dismemberment and ultimate sale. The PSA generally gave the taxpayer a good deal. Jobs were at risk and the statement was simply a triumph of dogma and ideology over public interest.

Mr Ridley said that in reaching his decision the Government had taken account of reports by Deloitte Haskins and Sells on the introduction of commercial accounting into the PSA and by the Select Committee on the Environment.

Last July the Government had announced that from April this year there would be a new relationship for major civil

ENVIRONMENT

projects between departments and the PSA.

Payment and untiring arrangements would now be extended to cover the range of services, defence as well as civil, offered by the PSA. The extended arrangements would be fully in place by April 1, 1990.

By April 1990 also the PSA would be reorganized into three businesses, two of them service businesses, covering project services and estate services.

For the third the PSA would continue to manage, on behalf of the Government as a whole,

Rowatree statements...29

the common-user element of the civil estate. Much property, however, would become the responsibility of individual departments. He hoped to make substantial progress in implementing this reorganization before the completion date on April 1, 1990.

"The PSA will continue to seek opportunities to contract out functions to the private sector. I shall keep the progress of contracting out under continuous review."

Further measures were needed if the PSA was to operate on a fully commercial basis. Therefore he had decided that the PSA would become a Government

trading fund and he aimed to put as much of its operations as practical on a trading fund basis no later than April 1, 1993.

The Secretary of State for Defence would take over responsibility in two areas. Estate functions on the defence estate both in the United Kingdom and overseas would transfer on October 1, 1988, and some 200 industrial staff employed in the PSA's directly employed labour force to carry out specific and permanent tasks in defence establishments would transfer on April 1, 1989.

By April 1990 up to 800 more of these industrial staff would be transferred.

Dr Cunningham said that the reasons set out for the creation of the PSA in its present form were as valid now as they were when it was created by a Conservative Government in 1972. The Labour Party saw a continuing need for its role in the public interest.

The Opposition supported the aim of greater efficiency in the Civil Service and in the public sector generally, but these proposals were really aimed at preparing the PSA for dismemberment and ultimate sale.

Mr Ridley said that it was the continuing role of the PSA set up in 1972 that the Government was seeking to develop. He saw in that no threat to jobs.

Mr James Wallace, SLD spokesman on defence, said that

if the proposals led to government departments, not least the Ministry of Defence, having more flexibility to economize by obtaining contracts at lower prices, it would be welcome.

Mr Ridley said that any department would be able to obtain the best price it could for maintenance works on its own property.

The PSA would remain as a body and would continue to have specialist knowledge which would be available to those from any branch of government who wanted to consult it.

Departments would be free to use it as an agent for managing their own properties.

Mr Michael Heseltine (Henley, C) said that there were likely to be more jobs in the economy as skills in the public sector were transferred to the private sector, and exploited across the world.

Mr Ridley agreed that development of the policy was likely to lead to a strengthening of the private sector.

Mr Ian Gow (Eastbourne, C) said that many Conservative MPs would want full privatization of the PSA.

Mr Ridley: I agree that it would be desirable to accelerate the proposals as far as possible, but we have already tried to do that, and our accountants believe that if we meet the target of 1993 for a trading fund, we shall be doing very well.



Mr John Patten, Minister of State, Home Office, opening a training centre for the unemployed yesterday in the former Crown and Leek public house in Spitalfields, east London. The venture by eight private and public organizations is intended to train local unemployed young people for jobs in the construction industry (Photograph: James Gray)

Vehicle licence battle pledged

The Department of Transport plans a strong campaign in this financial year against those who evade vehicle excise duty.

Mr Peter Bottomley, Under Secretary of State for Transport, said in a written Commons reply that, with the support of the police, they would be pursuing evaders more vigorously and a record number of enforcement campaigns was planned, covering almost half the vehicles in England, Scotland and Wales.

Campaigns induced motorists to tax vehicles voluntarily and led to automatic prosecution of those who ignored warnings.

The number of evaders brought to book through prosecution or out-of-court settlements had increased every year since 1981-82 and a further increase was planned in 1988-89.

Museums on the move

The Victoria and Albert Museum is considering displaying part of its Indian collection at Bradford, the Imperial War Museum has plans to establish an American Air Museum at Duxford Airfield and the Science Museum is looking at possible sites for a national museum of foot power farming. Mr Richard Lacey, Minister for the Arts, said in a written reply.

Papers study

Papers about the Lichtenstein subsidiaries of Lomho-Barg and Contango - have been referred to the Crown Prosecution Service, Mr Douglas Hogg, Under Secretary of State, Home Office, said in a written Commons reply.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Northern Ireland. Prime Minister: Debate on developments in the EEC July to December, 1987. Motion on the Lord Chancellor's salary order. Lords (11): British Steel Bill and Health and Medicines Bill, second readings.

Exemption for the handicapped

The following report of a Lords debate at the committee stage of the Local Government Finance Bill appeared in later editions yesterday.

Severely mentally handicapped people disabled through an accident in adulthood are to be exempt from the community charge, as already provided for those severely mentally handicapped at birth.

The Earl of Cathness, Minister of State for the Environment, announced at the Bill's committee stage that amendments to effect the change would be made at the next stage.

However, the Government opposed an all-party amendment to exempt poor disabled people wholly from contributing towards the community charge, and it was rejected by 146 votes

Church 'has rejected Thatcher'

SCOTLAND

The unacceptable nature of the Government's policies was proclaimed loud and clear by the decision of the Church of Scotland not to invite the Prime Minister to its general assembly next year, Mr Donald Dewar, chief Opposition spokesman on Scotland, said during Commons questions. Her sermon to them had made five converts.

Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Secretary of State for Scotland, said that the Prime Minister had received an extremely warm and genuine welcome from the assembly and that the efforts by a tiny number of commissioners led by a Glasgow district council Labour councillor were totally unrepresentative of the views of the vast majority.

Of the 1,200 present, only five, including the Labour councillor, showed the discourtesy that was so untypical of the Church of Scotland as a whole.

Thatcher's speech to the Conservative Women's Conference

'We are only in our third term, and a woman's work is never done'

The following is a part text of the Prime Minister's speech to the Conservative Women's Conference yesterday.

Conservative women bring common sense to government. I can't help reflecting that it's taken a government headed by a housewife with experience of running a family to balance the books for the first time in 20 years - with a little left over for a rainy day.

We support the right of women to choose our own lives for ourselves. If women wish to be lawyers, doctors, engineers, scientists, we should have the same opportunities as men. More and more we do.

But many women wish to devote themselves mainly to raising a family and running a home, and we should have that choice too. Very few jobs can compare in long-term importance and satisfaction with that of housewife and mother.

For the family is the building block of society. It is a nursery, a school, a hospital, a leisure centre, a place of refuge and a place of rest.

It encompasses the whole of society. It fashions our beliefs. It is the preparation for the rest of our life. And women run it.

Burden lies with family

The state must look after some children in care and those old people who cannot look after themselves. But the family is responsible for an infinitely greater number of children and far more elderly people.

However much welfare the state provides, the family provides more, much more. Yet, today, in some of our inner cities, as many as one in three children are being brought up without the security of two parents.

Family breakdown on this scale leads to poor results in school. It is serious not only for these children but also for the health of society.

That is why we introduced the new Family Credit to give extra help where the breadwinner is struggling to support the family on a low income. That is why we removed the financial penalties on marriage in the recent Budget.

And that's why, because children of an impressionable age spend so much time watching television, often unsupervised, we think it necessary to bring in a Broadcasting Standards Council.

We must strengthen the family.

Unless we do so, we will be faced with heart-rending social problems which no Government could possibly cure - or perhaps even cope with.

And that is so, even though the great revival of the British economy has meant that we are

providing more help to more families than ever before.

And what a revival. For in the last nine years, our economy has been transformed. New companies, new products, new technologies, new jobs are springing up throughout the land. Industry is on the move again.

Our miracle not accident

Rather than piling up deficits for future generations to pay, we are repaying debts. Our budget is in surplus. We are lifting the burden off the shoulders of our children.

No wonder America's leading business magazine, *Fortune*, told its readers this month: Britain has come roaring back. The British miracle didn't happen by accident. It happened because we backed our faith in the British people.

We believed that the most powerful force for a prosperous country was the liberated energies of a free people. We saw that sound money, lower taxes and freedom for enterprise were the only solid foundations for growth without inflation.

We believed those things and we acted on them. And the whole world has seen the results.

The choice is not between either tax cuts for the better off or more benefits for the poor. It's a one way choice: tax cuts are the incentive to create the wealth which pays for higher benefits. That's been the history of the last nine years.

As Abraham Lincoln put it: "You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong."

Other Governments - and other socialist governments - are now coming here to see how it is done and to try it out back home. Foreign countries may take their cue from Paris, but they take their economics from London.

Two weeks ago, the Finance Minister in New Zealand's Labour Government, was speaking in London. Let me quote you his exact words: "Our policies, especially in the economic field, do not at first sight look like the policies of a socialist government."

We are the pioneers

"Traditional socialist governments do not deregulate banks, cut taxes, sell state-owned assets, remove subsidies or deregulate local industry and 'free up' import access."

"So why have we done it? The reason is very simple. It is because this government is more interested in results than in process."

"Interested in results..." But how did he know that these

policies would achieve the right results?

He and other governments knew that these policies worked only because we had the courage to pioneer them, because we believed in them.

We worked hard to achieve our present success. But we can't take it for granted. We still have much to do. We are only in our third term and a woman's work is never done.

Conservative Britain is again in the forefront of a great social change. Labour believes in turning workers against owners; we are turning workers into owners.

Inherited capital is no longer the privilege of the few. It's a

who founded Methodism 250 years ago: "Gain all you can, save all you can, give all you can."

Those words remain true today, and the British people remain true to them.

Look at donations to charities. People now give twice as much - on top of inflation - as they did in 1979. Look at the 2,500 charitable schemes already set up under the payroll giving scheme this Government introduced. Look at appeals like Band Aid, Live Aid, Childline, and next week's Telethon.

As the British people become better off, so they share the fruits of their work with others. Their

which cannot be paid for. Public morality must never be financed by dud cheques.

We met that requirement, and more, when we paid for our social programmes out of greater national wealth and a balanced budget.

But the second principle is still more demanding. For it is self-defeating to have systems of state provision which undermine the self-reliance of the individual.

Self-reliance and self-respect are precious commodities. They are the source of all endeavour. But they are all too easily destroyed by the temptation of state-induced dependence. Gov-

ernment must never supplant personal responsibility.

Our social security system did that sometimes. That is why we had to reform it.

The system of social benefits we inherited was telling young people that living on benefit was an acceptable substitute for being in work. So some young people were choosing to be idle. That was wrong.

So, for those who couldn't get a job, we offered training and a grant instead. That way they learn a skill for the future, self-reliance and the habits of regular work. That was right.

Then, some families on low wages with young children found that they were worse off if they worked harder and earned more. They lost more benefit



Mrs Thatcher yesterday: We shall be strengthened and upheld by our Conservative values

real prospect for the majority. For the time, most families have a substantial legacy to pass on to their children. We are a capital-owning democracy of people and families.

We have come out of the long, dark tunnel of socialism; we are the first post-socialist society. The Labour Party in its desperation tries to brand this the greedy society.

Can't they see that self-reliance is the first step towards helping others? That men and women are striving for more independence, accepting more responsibility, hoping to give their children a better chance in life?

If Labour had a better understanding of British history - and human nature - they might recall the words of John Wesley

generosity is greater than ever.

And remember, that this generosity is in addition to the largest-ever expenditure of taxpayers' money on social security, a sum equal to £67 a week for a family of four.

This is an enormous sum of money, no less than one-third of all public spending.

Benefits have to be paid for

It is a great responsibility to spend such large amounts. We have to be in mind two very important principles.

First, it is wrong to load society with public burdens without ensuring it can create the wealth to sustain them. It is dishonest to promise benefits

Two important reforms

Social security was the last great reform of our second term. We began our third term with two more great reforms: the community charge and education.

On community charge, I am delighted to say that we won the debate in their lordships' House earlier this week on the sheer merit of the argument.

Indeed, it is significant that a majority of the independent peers who attended the debate voted for us.

The second great reform is to raise the quality of education. Our children need to speak and write clear English if they are to compete in later life. They need a good grounding in basic mathematics.

They need to know all that is best in the history of their country. Children need to be taught traditional moral values and to understand our religious heritage. We can't leave them to discover for themselves what is right and wrong.

Yes, there are good teachers and successful schools. When we see them we know what other young people are missing. Kenneth Baker's Education Reform Bill aims to extend the high standards that exist much more widely.

Parents will insist on high standards, on a good education for their children, on good schools. And we will give them the power to do so.

But education is about more than passing examinations. Crime is the big enemy.

Today the biggest blight on many neighbourhoods is crime. Before we came to power in 1979 we promised to act against crime. We promised we would make the police service stronger and criminal justice tougher. We have kept those promises.

Today the police service is bigger, better paid, better equipped, and more thoroughly trained than at any time in the past.

What is more, figures published last week show that

serious offenders are receiving the longer sentences you have always called for.

Strong measures by Government and Parliament are essential, but they are not enough.

Combating crime is everybody's business, everybody's responsibility. It cannot be left solely to the police, any more than we can leave our health solely to the doctors.

The most likely British criminal is a 14 or 15-year-old boy. You do that child no favour if you suggest that he is not responsible for his actions. He won't change and improve his life if he doesn't accept responsibility for it.

Those who commit crime must be held personally responsible for what they do. If they learn that lesson, then there is hope for them and for us. If they don't learn that lesson, we must hold them to account.

In dealing with crime, we have to make life as tough as possible for the criminal.

We must never allow the rule of law to be replaced by the rule of fear.

For we are treating a disease which infects the body and soul of society.

Good relations with East

Next week there is a summit meeting between President Reagan and Mr Gorbachev. That is coming to mean quite a normal event. But don't underestimate its significance.

We have made the difficult passage from the cold hostility of Marxism to a better relationship between East and West. And we have done it without sacrificing any of our basic principles or weakening our defence. That is an historic achievement.

We must give credit to Mr Gorbachev. He has understood that the Communist system produced military might but not the standard of living, the standard of technology, the standard of social services which his people want. He is trying to change the system. He has not let the difficulties eclipse the opportunities.

But when history is written, I believe this new spirit in relations between East and West will be remembered as one of the greatest achievements of President Reagan. He strengthened the defence of the West.

He stood firm on the basic issues: liberty, justice, human rights.

But he also helped to lift the cloud of fear and hostility. He held out the vision of a better world. And he refused to be deflected.

Who could have thought, even two years ago, that the Russians would today be withdrawing from Afghanistan?

Pro car



Proof that Epson's laser printer can make anything look good.

Not everyone can be a great writer like what Shakespeare was. But with the Epson GQ-3500 laser printer, anyone can make their work look outstanding — however rotten it's wrote.

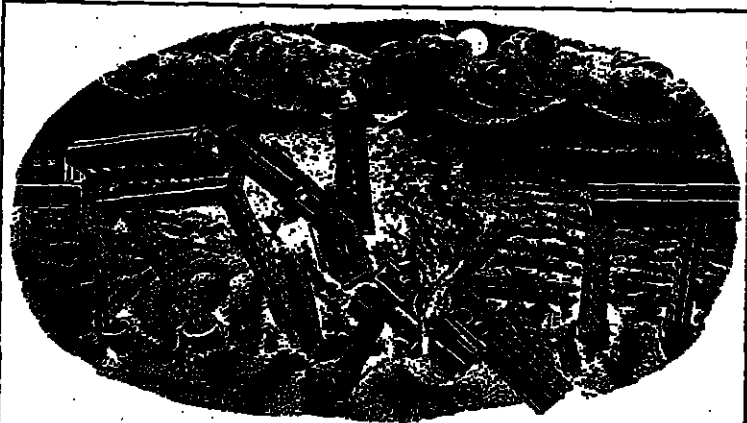
The GQ-3500 produces professional-quality artwork with fully-formed headlines, typeset copy and superb graphics that will put any typed-and-photocopied effort to shame.

Moreover, it can do this far faster and cheaper than any design studio or printing shop.

One man who could certainly have done with it was the 19th-century Scottish poet William McGonagall.

For reasons that will become obvious, he could not get anyone to publish his 'Poetic Gems' and so had to pay a local printer to do the job.

If he'd had a GQ-3500 on his desktop, however, he could have published them himself and made them look as impressive as this:



THE RAILWAY BRIDGE DISASTER
Alas! I am very sorry to say
That ninety lives have been taken away
On the last Sabbath day of 1879,
Which will be remembered for a very long time...

THE BATTLE OF ELLEN
Ye sons of Great Britain, I think no shame
To write in praise of brave General Graham!
Whose name will be handed down to posterity without any stigma,
Because, at the battle of Ellen, he defeated Osman Digma...

THE MIRACULOUS ESCAPE OF ROBERT ALLAN, THE FIREMAN
Twas in the year of 1888, and on October the fourteenth day,
That a fire broke out in a warehouse, and for hours blazed away;
And the warehouse, now destroyed, was occupied by the Messrs
R. Wylie, Hill & Co.,
Situated in Buchanan Street, in the City of Glasgow.

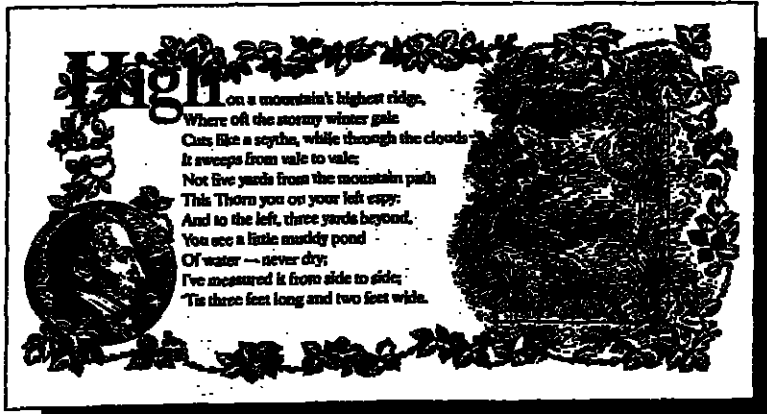
JENNY CARRISTER, THE HEROINE OF LUCKNOW-MINE
A HEROIC story I will unfold,
Concerning Jenny Carrister, a heroine bold,
Who lived in Australia, at a gold mine called Lucknow,
And Jenny was beloved by the miners, somehow...

Since McGonagall was such a prolific poet, and because his compositions tended to be great in length (if not in quality), he would doubtless have appreciated the speed of the GQ-3500. (It prints six A4 pages per minute.)

And being a canny Scot, he would also have approved of its modest price — a mere £1,795 (RRP, excluding VAT but including a Hewlett Packard emulation card which would cost around £125 to buy separately).

Yet William McGonagall was not the only poet whose work would have benefited from laser printing.

In the following bathetic extract from 'The Thorn', William Wordsworth shows just why people left him to wander lonely as a cloud.

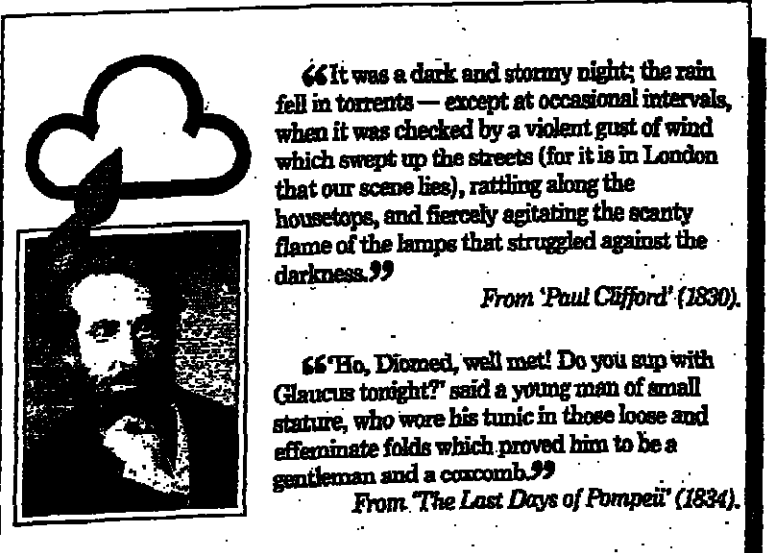


At least with the GQ-3500, Wordsworth could have illustrated his concern for the puddle's exact dimensions with an accurate diagram of it.

Several present-day novelists spring to mind whose work would be greatly improved by laser printing.

But rather than risk a heavy libel suit, we have again chosen a writer from the 19th century.

Here are the opening lines of two novels by Edward George Earle Bulwer-Lytton — and as you will see, they need far more than the usual printer graphics, such as bar graphs and pie charts, to make them look good:



Surprisingly, Bulwer-Lytton was second in popularity only to Charles Dickens in his day.

Today, he is chiefly remembered as the inspiration for the Bulwer-Lytton Fiction Contest, held every year in the United States.

The aim is to write the worst possible opening sentence for an imaginary novel — and the following entries were awfully successful:



The camel died quite suddenly on the second day, and Selena fretted sulky and, butting her already impeccable nails — not for the first time since the journey began — pondered snidely if this would dissolve into a vignette of minor inconveniences like all the other holidays spent with Basil.

He was a Portuguese who had never fished and she was a Chinese who couldn't cook rice; he had enough hair on his chest to make a coat for a very small Hungarian and the way she kissed it made him wonder why.

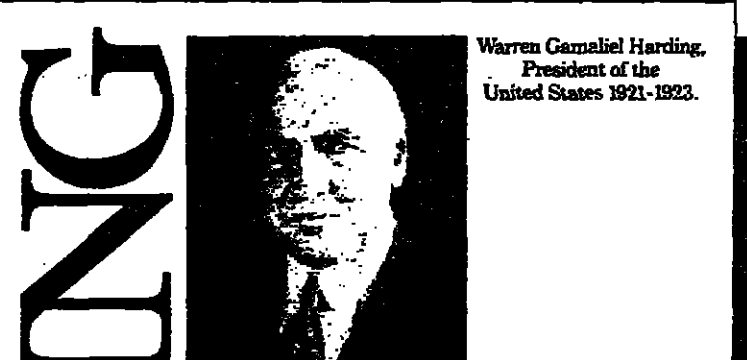
Pignotti had hidden his mistress in the mothcushion, and now he had taken the beautiful and magical Mekhlin and her infant Timmy there, too, and they all trembled as they heard the fearful chieftains of the invading Hmewus just above.

You will notice that each entry has been produced in a different typeface. Changing between the seven resident fonts on the GQ-3500 is even simpler than McGonagall, thanks to the LED 'Selectype' panel on the front — and other fonts can easily be engaged by inserting special 'credit cards' into slots on the side of the machine.

In a previous Epson advertisement, we suggested that the near-silent SQ-2500 ink-jet printer was the only machine that the near-silent President Calvin Coolidge would have allowed in his office.

However, the GQ-3500 is so quiet, he would surely have approved of this as well.

For making bad writing look good, though, it would have been of more use to Coolidge's immediate predecessor in the White House:



"I would like the government to do all it can to mitigate, then, in understanding, in mutuality of interest, in concern for the common good, our tasks will be solved."

"I have had the good intention to write you a letter ever since you left, but the pressure of things has prevented, speeches to prepare and deliver, and seeing people, make a very exacting penalty of trying to be in politics."

"I carry no bitterness in my heart which dates from 1912."

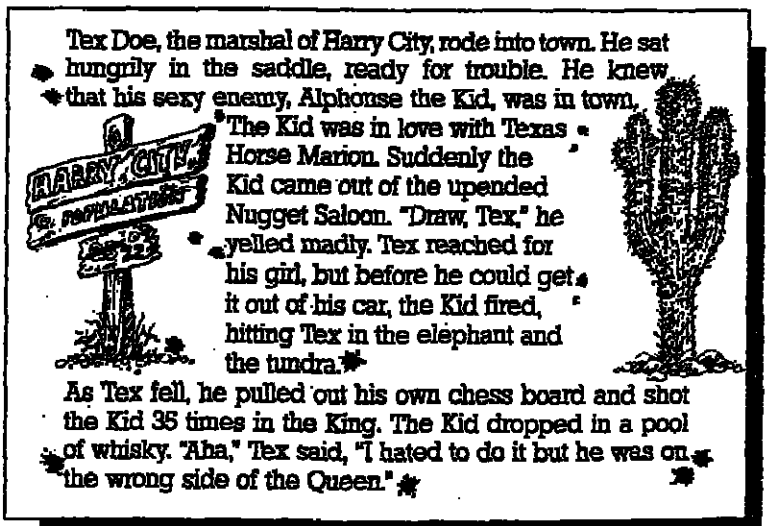
"America's present need is not heroics but healing; not nostrums but normalcy."

"Progress is not proclamation nor palaver. It is not pretence nor play on prejudice. It is not the perturbation of a people passion-wrought, nor a promise proposed."

The GQ-3500 is certainly very flexible. It has an IBM character set fitted as standard, and both parallel and serial interface options are available to allow it to work with virtually any computer.

Gilbert Bohuslav should have used one with his DEC PDP 11/70 in Houston, Texas.

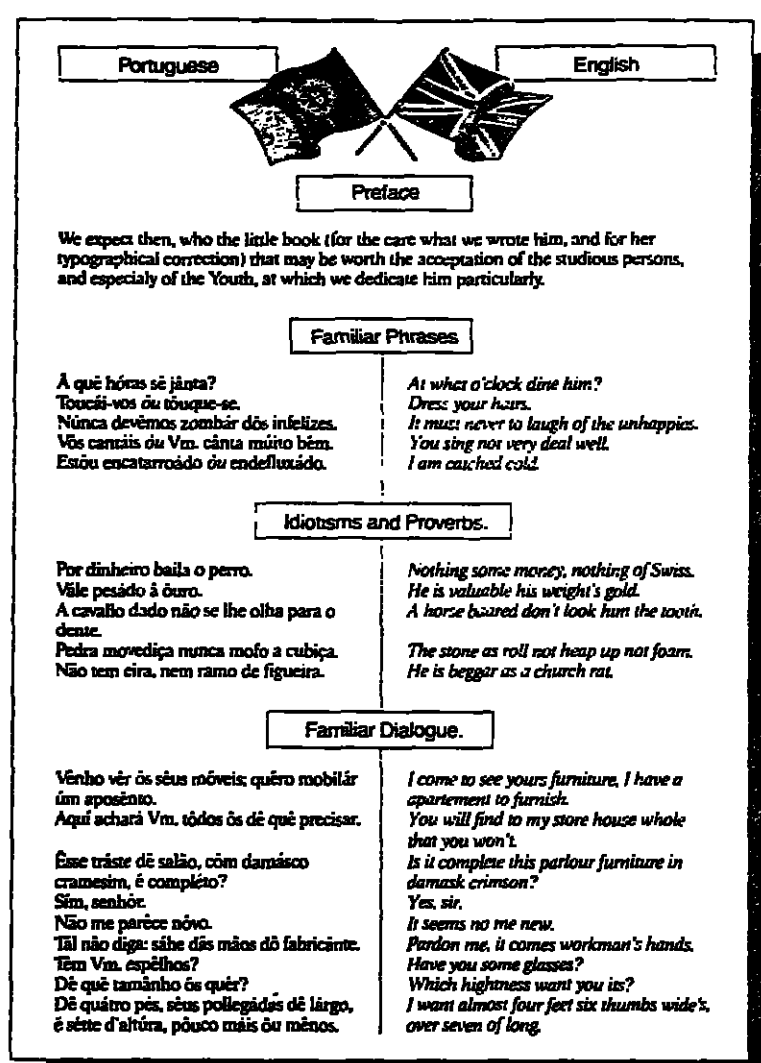
He had managed to teach it how to play chess — but when he tried to get it to write a Western story, this was the result:



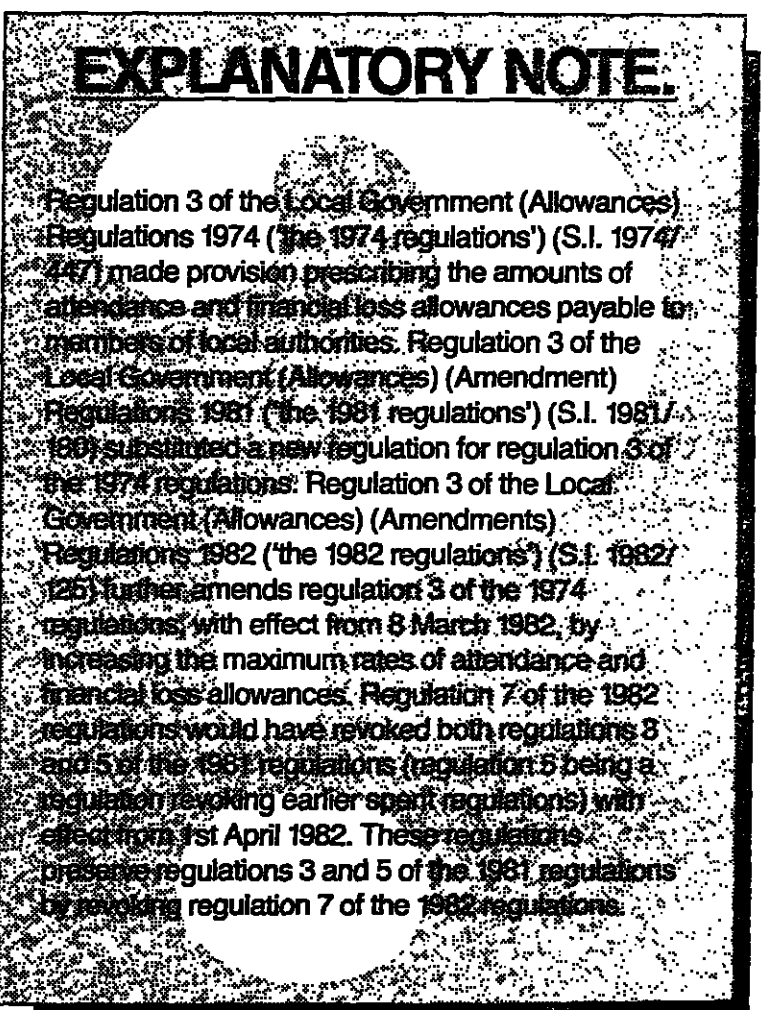
Hardly a memorable composition, you will agree — but with the help of all the graphics stored in its own powerful 640K memory (expandable to 1.5Mb), the GQ-3500 does make it appear accomplished.

Like all Epson printers, the GQ-3500 has a full international character set built in, which would have made it perfect for Pedro Carolino.

He was a Portuguese who spoke no English — but he did not allow this to stop him from writing a phrasebook with the help of his Portuguese-French and French-English dictionaries.



On the subject of size, the GQ-3500 has a height of only 8.46 thumbs, has one foot 3.9 thumbs wide and one foot 4.4 of long. This makes it the most compact laser printer you can buy. The list of possible applications is virtually endless. You can use the GQ-3500 to print anything from simple memos and letters to full-blown official documents. It can even make government regulations appear interesting:



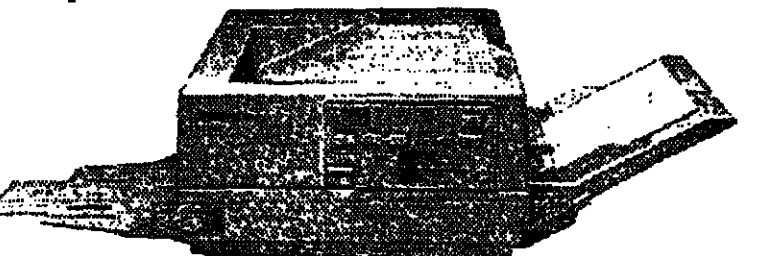
Unfortunately, it cannot save them from being as comprehensible as the average computer manual.

(The GQ-3500, on the other hand, is extremely easy to operate and maintain — though as you would expect of an Epson, it is exceptionally reliable.)

You have now seen the proof that laser printing can make even the worst writing appear polished — so just imagine what it could do for yours.

Find out more about the GQ-3500 by writing to: Epson (U.K.) Limited, Freeport, Birmingham B37 5BR. (Alternatively, call up Prestel *280# or ring 0800 289622 free of charge.)

You could soon be looking gooder in print than you ever think possible.



EPSON

Bulwer-Lytton Contest entries reproduced from 'It was a Dark and Stormy Night' ed. Scott Rice (1984); 'Explanatory Note' from 'Gobbledygook' by the Plain English Campaign (1984).

In the King's Cross witness box today, the transport innovator who must put London's ancient Underground back on the rails

All the signals are for change

There used to be a custom at board meetings of the London Underground executive that, whenever a member was caught committing a grammatical offence, he was obliged to pop a coin into the "swear box" in the middle of the table — the proceeds going to charity. The first meeting presided over by Dr Tony Ridley upon his appointment as managing director in 1980 was only a few minutes into its deliberations when a fellow director split an infinitive and was asked to make his contribution.

"Ridley looked up in some surprise and said, quite mildly, that he would prefer to listen first to the point being made," recalls a colleague. Ridley, who today begins his personal evidence to the official inquiry into the King's Cross fire disaster, is no domineering disciplinarian. But what the anecdote shows is that the man with the rounded spectacles and the slightly disorganised appearance of a prep school master is not easily deflected from his target. He is now recognised as one of the great mass transportation innovators of the age.

To prove that the respect was mutual, Ridley will now reveal his own secret. "I know what they were privately saying: 'Any bloody fool can build a new railway in Hong Kong but running one that's a hundred years old is a real man's job.' They were right, of course. Not that Hong Kong was that easy, but I knew what they meant."

That Far East venture, culminating in the revolutionary Mass Transit, was not his first triumph. With a doctorate in transportation

THE TIMES PROFILE

DR TONY RIDLEY

engineering from the University of California and a research stint with the Greater London Council under his belt, Ridley was just 36 when he returned to the county of his birth to become director-general of the Tyneside Passenger Transport Authority. His brief was to weld together three loss-making bus companies. His achievement instead was to win £50 million from the Government and conceive, design and build the region's 44-station Metro railway.

Fellow director David Howard — now his successor as director-general of the Tyne and Wear Passenger Transport Executive — remembers how Ridley's zeal enabled the authority to leap-frog several cities, including Manchester, whose Underground plans were far more advanced.

Ridley is hesitant to confirm the story of how he outpaced his trans-Pennine rivals. "All I can say is that British Rail decided to pull out all the stops with a scheme of its own and presented it to John Peyton at the Transport Ministry one Monday morning — only to discover that he had awarded us our grant on the previous Friday. You have to move fairly quickly in this business."

Perhaps Ridley should have suspected where his destiny lay when he and his wife, Jane, went house hunting, found the perfect place at Rowlands Gill in County

Durham, and discovered that in the garden they had inherited a model railway.

There are those who feel that Ridley is still having to move quickly — merely to avoid going backwards: that the story of the last decade has been one of desperate reaction to unpredictable events and that the vast and ancient network — just like any elderly human being — is chronically resistant to change. Confronted with the suggestion, he smiles ruefully. "In Hong Kong I was managing director of 3,000 people and a brand new company where every decision was a new precedent. In London Underground there are 20,000 people and loads of precedents. My challenge is to get the ship to change direction — and this particular ship happens to have rather a lot of momentum."

It is an inbuilt intransigence which Ridley came close to acknowledging when he successfully argued that the new Docklands Light Railway should be independent of the Underground. "What we did not want was a modern railway tied in terms of management, staff and union attitudes to a hundred years of history," he says. "Any old organization is bound to have some old-fashioned attitudes."

But John Harvey Jones, the former chairman of ICI, uses a phrase in his book *Making It Happen*, which I believe says it all: "Management is about maintaining the highest rate of change that the organization and the people within it can stand."

The question on the lips of many of his staff, however, con-



cerns how much Ridley himself can stand. While he has been preparing to step into the King's Cross witness box he has been master-minding the biggest modernization programme in the Underground's history, possibly involving spending £3,000 million over the next 15 to 20 years, presiding over the highest number of passengers — 800 million last year — and acting as chairman of his own brainchild, the Docklands Light Railway.

Over an 8am breakfast in his office on the seventh floor above St James's Park station, he apologized for half of his desk being covered in mountains of books, files and reports. "I'm afraid they're all King's Cross," he said. He had arrived for work at 6.40am. Stuart Cole, senior lecturer in transport economics at the Polytechnic of North London Business School, had seen him leaving for home the previous night at 9pm.

It is five years since Ridley

BIOGRAPHY
1933: Born in Sunderland, the son of a Durham mining engineer.
1947-52: Educated, Durham School.
1952-58: Civil engineering degrees at King's College, Durham University, and Northwestern University, Illinois.
1958: PhD in transportation engineering, University of California, Berkeley.
1959-60: Director-general of Tyneside Passenger Transport Executive during the design and building of region's Metro urban rail system, and afterwards designer and managing director of Hong Kong Mass Transit.
1980: Managing director of London Underground.
1986: Chairman, Docklands Light Railway.

forecast the need — now widely accepted — for a massive investment in the Underground. But he steers neatly away from any such political minefield, and prefers to direct his sights on the future. "London is going to be competing with Paris to become the capital of Europe," he says, "and the French won't be hanging around waiting for our challenge. If we are to win we've got to have a city that works. With three million people coming into the central area every day, the

existing Underground network can't meet the increased demand. "We can't do anything about narrow tunnels and long, meandering passenger corridors, so we must have new lines. That needs not only a management commitment but a political will — and I now believe we have both."

Ridley's immediate commitment, however, is considerably diverted towards the disaster inquiry. His father was a self-taught engineer in the coal industry,

responsible for safety in about a dozen Durham pits. "About three months before he retired a cage broke from the winding gear and crashed to the bottom. He rushed to the scene but, fortunately, there was only one injury. I remember that day vividly and I was always brought up to have a high regard for safety."

While the chairman and managing director of London Underground supports the need for an inquiry, there are many on his staff who feel its five-month duration is a crippling restraint on the resources of the £50 million-a-year business. They point to the comparison with the Moorgate Tube disaster — in which 42 people died — when the inquiry lasted three days. "It's a traumatic time," he says, "but my main job now is to lift the morale of the company. So much lies ahead — and upon our success depends the economic future of London."

William Greaves

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1574

ACROSS

- 1 Grotesquely unconventional (10)
- 8 Group reject (7)
- 9 Line up (5)
- 10 Innocent child (4)
- 11 Squeeze together (8)
- 13 Boundary (5)
- 14 Christmas card bird (5)
- 16 Corroborate (8)
- 18 Grain husks (4)
- 21 Party (5)
- 22 Remark (7)
- 23 Isle of Portland ridge (6,4)

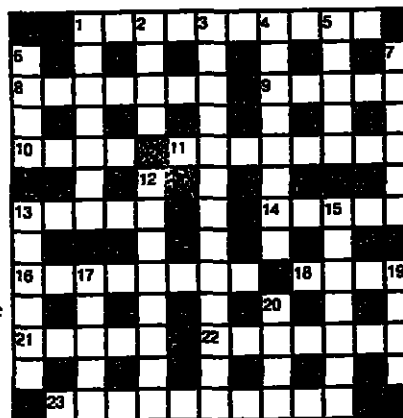
DOWN

- 1 Best (7)
- 2 Bufo Bufo (4)
- 3 Relating to space flight (13)
- 4 Non-Israeli Jews (8)
- 5 Shoot from cover (5)
- 6 W. German chancellor (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1573

- ACROSS: 3 Cole, 5 Almas, 8 Torso, 10 Neurology, 11 Prang, 12 Loh, 13 Rhino, 14 Esmate, 16 Compere, 18 Pich, 20 Cur, 22 Impel, 23 In-between, 24 Cedge, 25 Yo-yo, 26 Fate.

DOWN: 1 Stupor, 2 Organism, 3 Conglomerate, 4 Touché, 6 Loom, 7 Scythe, 9 Port Au Prince, 15 Antipode, 16 Cavity, 17 Ec-zema, 19 Halter, 21 Obey



A flutter at the tills on the NHS

With the first lottery to help fund the National Health Service scuppered by the law this week, a huge new NHS flutter is on the horizon. If the American firm of G-tech and Simon Barnes, MP for Chelmsford, have their way, there will soon be new terminals sitting next to the cash registers in supermarkets and corner shops. Their function — to help run a national lottery as efficiently as possible.

According to Charles Cousins, a consultant to G-tech, which is based in Rhode Island: "The idea is that you would walk in to make a purchase and then have a flutter. You would pay about £1 to the shopkeeper and then

punch seven numbers into the terminal. The digits would be sent to a central computer and memorized, while the machine printed out a ticket which you would keep.

"At the end of the week you would sit back to watch the draw on television. Hey presto! You could be a winner. If it was a small amount, such as £50, you would simply claim it from the shopkeeper. Larger sums would be claimed from the lottery."

The game Cousins describes is of a Lotto type, already played by millions of people, and raises billions of pounds, in countries from Spain to Australia. But it would not currently be legal in this country under the terms of the Lotteries and Amusements Act, 1976, as the National

The first health service lottery might have drawn a losing ticket but, reports Boris Johnson, another is on the way

Hospital Trust has just discovered to its cost.

Its plan was to get round the maximum prize limit by registering 100 local lotteries, with a top prize of £2,000, to make a possible combined grand prize of £200,000. But the organizers were told by the Department of Public Prosecutions on Tuesday that this contravened the spirit of the law: the Trust might have faced prosecution if it had gone ahead.

Cousins is confident that his proposals, if made possible

under law, would raise about four times more than the NHT scheme. He quotes "industry sources" to predict that after four years the game would be producing £3 billion revenue, of which £1.1 billion to £1.5 billion could be spent on causes such as the NHS. "The Health Service now costs £2.8 billion to run per year," he says. "Each year the lottery would raise about as much as selling off British Airways."

The advantage of the G-tech scheme, according to Cousins, is that every shopper could

take part, whereas the NHT was obliged to leaflet five million homes, from which it would have got only a 1 per cent return.

But Treasury officials are said to be worried by the monopolistic dangers of this sort of private national lottery.

And it is feared that there might be a temptation to reduce government funds for the Health Service because of the extra money flowing in. To counter this, G-tech, like the NHT, proposes to administer the 35 to 40 per cent that goes to the health service through an independent committee. Of the remaining money, 50 per cent would go in prizes and G-tech would claim 15 per cent to cover the costs of advertising, administration, equipment and

so on. The balance would go to sales agents.

"It is essential that the Government should set up a committee of the great and the good to administer the money, so that the operation is detached as far as possible from the Government and ourselves," Cousins says.

Finally he points to the disadvantages of having regional lotteries. "People running them would not be able to make economies of scale, they would spend more than they need on equipment, and as a result less would go to the hospitals than under a national system."

Will the Home Office change the law? "I hope so. It will bring a lot of sheer fun to millions, and no one, least of all the NHS, will lose."

Going under the hammer and sickle

artfile



SARAH JANE CHECKLAND
A weekly look at the art world

Enough of Kim Philby. New evidence of a British double act working in Moscow at the time of the Russian Revolution is coming under the capitalist hammer at Christie's in London on July 19.

The two men, known individually to spy enthusiasts but never officially associated, have been incriminated by a stylish, if battered, cigar box made by Asprey's in 1919. There, on the inside lid, is an inscription: "To R.H. Bruce Lockhart, H.B.M.'s Representative in Russia in 1918 (during the Bolshevik Regime) in remembrance of events in Moscow... from his faithful Lieutenant Sidney Reilly." The cigar box is being sold, along with other telling memorabilia, by Lockhart's son, Robin.

Lockhart (1887-1970) is renowned for his involvement

in the "Lockhart plot" of 1918, which he recalled at length in his bestseller, *Memoirs of a British Agent*. This was a special mission in which Lockhart, briefed by Lloyd George, attempted nothing less than a reversal of the Bolshevik revolution by covertly assisting the White Russians. He had two major advantages: fluent Russian and personal friendships with the Bolshevik leaders Trotsky and Lenin (he dismissed the latter as "more like a provincial grocer than a leader of men").

But things went wrong when Dora Kaplan, a Russian fanatic, took a pot shot at Lenin in August 1918. Lockhart was arrested, interrogated and, despite diplomatic immunity, was only saved from execution when the British government exchanged him for a Russian counterpart.

Sidney Reilly (whose story was dramatized in the television series *Reilly Ace of Spies*) was a more shadowy character. A successful agent in Germany before the war, he now appears from the cigar case that he was actively working for Lockhart: "The counter revolution was largely financed by money provided through my father," Robin Lockhart says, "although the Foreign Office tried to make out he had nothing to do with it. This box is solid proof of the two men's relationship."

But there is always one problem with spies: once they have got away with a bluff, what is there to stop the double-bluff?



Top secrets: some of Lockhart's memorabilia, including the cigar box and, right, the "ace of spies" himself, Sidney Reilly.

In 1925, Reilly disappeared, possibly in the direction of the Soviet Union. So was Lockhart really in charge, or did Reilly dupe him?

The objects have been sent for sale by Sir Robert's son, Robin, an elderly stockbroker. "I am living mostly in France, and don't like leaving things around for burglars," he says. Apart from Lockhart's christening mug, his KCMG medal, and the battered Foreign Office briefcase he used while based in Prague some years later, there is even the sheet

music to a fox-trot dedicated to him.

Robin Lockhart wonders whether the auction will bring about another twist in the saga, with the Soviet authorities appropriating the collection. "They are fascinated with my father's involvement with the plot. Last year their television interviewed me twice, asking what was my father's relationship with Sidney Reilly? Whatever the truth about the secret partnership, it may well disappear into the Kremlin for ever."

In the past year the world has witnessed a shotgun attack on the Leonardo Carro at the National Gallery in London, and the near-destruction by sulphuric acid of three Dürer paintings in Munich.

Despite the risks of such obscene destruction happening again, it is business as usual at our national museums. Security seems to be more a matter of finger crossing than taking active precautions. Security arrangements are not publicized, but the fact

is that our heritage is threatened by a recurrence of the nightmare every day. Surely, as record prices make art works increasingly tempting targets for the disaffected, it is time to tighten security?

One solution, suggested by the eminent art restorer John Ball in a letter to *The Times*, is to protect all but the largest paintings in public galleries with glass. "Now that an excellent non-reflecting glass is available, there can be no excuse for leaving these irreplaceable works unprotected."

But, however discreet, glass would create a barrier between the viewer and the object, obscuring the glories of the artwork. Surely — security precautions should be taken as visitors enter the building, with a routine of frisking and X-ray surveillance similar to that at airports? Why should our worthy MPs at the Houses of Parliament be protected in exactly this way, while national treasures of a timeless nature are left open to chance?

AS MANY PEOPLE AS TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

AS MANY TAPS AS A THREE BEDROOM SEMI.

This is a typical refugee camp in Western Ethiopia.

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HEALTH

Fit for the summit?

Victoria McKee takes a look at the health of world leaders and monitors expert opinion on their fitness to rule

World leaders wield awesome power, often at an age when their contemporaries have been forced to retire. Their judgement is expected to be at its prime, even if they are past it, unclouded by jet-lag, unimpaired by lack of sleep and impervious to punishing schedules. So critical is the condition of rival rulers considered to be that intelligence agencies go to great lengths to assess it. America's Central Intelligence Agency acknowledges that national security demands as much knowledge as possible about the leaders of other countries.

At Stanford University's School of Medicine, Professor Herbert L. Abrams, professor of radiology and founding vice-president of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, is currently working on a massive study of the health of world leaders as it relates to their capabilities for decision-making in a nuclear age.

Writing in the current issue of the *Harvard Medical Alumni Bulletin*, Abrams states: "The cognitive effects of acute and chronic organic illness are well-known and fully capable of affecting rational decision-making. It is important, therefore, to appreciate the demography of illness in the national leadership of the great powers."

"There have been 16 US presidents and 17 Soviet secretaries general in the twentieth century. Twelve had heart conditions in office (eight Americans and four Soviets); eight were violently attacked (seven Americans and one Soviet); seven had major surgery (five Americans and two Soviets); six had cerebral haemorrhages (three Americans and two Soviets); and seven died of illness in office (two Americans and five Soviets). In addition, two Americans were assassinated."

"Twenty per cent of all US leaders and 70 per cent of Soviet leaders have died in office."

Cerebral arteriosclerosis is one of the most common conditions to incapacitate elderly leaders, Abrams maintains. With it comes a diminished intellectual capacity, impairment of judgement and decreased ability to concentrate, as well as altered memory and emotional stability.

"I think the public have the right to know as much as they can about their leader's health, and I would suggest a careful screening of the President annually by three independent physicians," says Abrams.

Reagan's personal physician is John E. Hutton jun., a US Army

Medical Corps colonel who specializes in vascular surgery. Downing Street says the name of Mrs Thatcher's doctor is a personal matter; Gorbachov's medical advisors are not on record.

Specialists at St John's Hospital of Skin Diseases, in London, say that Gorbachov's facial birthmark, which is known as a port wine stain, does not indicate any medical condition, but a report in *The Washington Post*, last December, claimed that such marks could be accompanied by malformations of blood vessels in the brain which could cause mental retardation, blindness, strokes and seizures.

"As far as we know Gorbachov is in excellent health and seems, so far at least, very rational," Abrams says. "I don't believe that either Reagan or Gorbachov would intentionally initiate a massive exchange, but I am worried about what could happen in a crisis."

So is Professor Malcolm Harrington, director of the Institute of Occupational Health at the University of Birmingham. As far as he is concerned, the major occupational hazard facing world leaders is the travelling they do.

"Do we really want the fate of the world in the hands of someone with jet-lag?" he queries. "Those who advise Foreign Office officials and businessmen tell them to do no work when they first arrive — and they're very careful with rest periods for pilots. But politicians go straight into a meeting, when they're not celebrating terribly well and decision-making certainly isn't at its best."

Reagan, he observes, "is supposed to nod off in meetings and be inattentive and one wonders about the information he can retain — which is vital. Gorbachov

is younger and more switched on, and Thatcher is capable of catching up like Churchill was, which helps her."

Professor Karol Sikora, professor of clinical oncology at the postgraduate medical school of Hammersmith Hospital, believes that politicians should be regularly scanned for brain abnormalities. "By 1995 it will be obligatory for pilots to be scanned: why not politicians?" he asks.

Sikora, who favours a mandatory retirement age of 70 for world leaders, believes that Mrs Thatcher should still be in good shape by the year 2000, that Gorbachov seems in rude good health, from the available data, and Reagan's skin cancer is "a red herring", while his bowel cancer "must be under control or he wouldn't have been allowed to stay in office."

Dr Desmond Kelly, a consultant psychiatrist and UK president of the International Committee for Stress and Tension Control, thinks Reagan has done remarkably well considering his age and the stresses put upon him. "One of his disadvantages is also an asset: his reliance on other people. Had he a more aggressive temperament I don't think he would have survived."

Dr Jan de Winter, head of the Jan de Winter Cancer Prevention Centre and Foundation, in Brighton, and an expert at assessing life expectancy, thinks Mrs Thatcher the "most robust and resistant of the three leaders. Her one weakness is a lack of exercise, which will make her more vulnerable to circulatory trouble, such as heart disease, later on."

Reagan is "liable to get a recurrence of bowel cancer because of the proven tendency of the lining of his intestines to malignant change", he says. "Although Gorbachov is rel-

atively young, he's already overweight. Unless he exercises regularly his main danger lies in ever-rising blood pressure and an eventual stroke.

"Reagan is lucky in having such a jovial nature — which is a great protection against cancer. He has achieved everything a man can want, and doesn't care terribly whether he succeeds any more, whereas for Mrs Thatcher and Gorbachov that's everything."



In working order: but Gorbachov is overweight and Reagan has undergone major surgery



In good shape: but Mrs Thatcher never takes any exercise

MARGARET THATCHER

1925: Born October 13; 5' 5" tall; 9st 7lb
1982: Operation to remove varicose veins from both legs
1983: Operation on right eye for damaged retina
1986: Operation to correct clawed hand (Dupuytren's Contracture) which had troubled her for 10 years but was worsening
1987: July-December — speculation about the Prime Minister's health with the strain of the election, Archer court case, new house, son's wedding. November — reported faint at a Buckingham Palace reception; she had been experiencing neck and shoulder pains. Downing Street declined to comment
● Downing Street say that she takes no special type of exercise and that she eats moderately and sensibly; would not like to comment on whether she drinks or smokes.

MIKHAIL GORBACHOV

1931: Born March 2; height and weight unconfirmed (Soviet Embassy says such things are not considered of consequence in the Soviet Union)
1987: A "slight cold" on April 6, postponed four-day visit to Czechoslovakia
Speculation that he was ill or had been assassinated, the Soviet Embassy confirms, "when he took off four or six weeks to write his book. But aside from that period he has been meeting delegations every day, and he's in very good health."
● A non-smoker, a "fastidious" eater and an abstemious drinker. He is occasionally seen with a glass of white wine in his hand at functions — but no vodka — and has been a leader of the anti-alcohol campaign. Facial birthmarks can indicate Sturge-Weber syndrome — a malformation of blood vessels in the brain that can cause retardation, blindness, strokes and seizures.

RONALD REAGAN

1911: Born February 6; 6'1" tall; 13st 2lb
1967: Prostate surgery
1981: Hospitalized after assassination attempt. Surgery and transfusion
1984: Polypectomy (removal of polyp from colon)
1985: Polypectomy
1986: Major abdominal surgery for polypoid cancer in the transverse colon
1986: Polypectomy
1987: Prostatectomy; minor operations for the removal of small cancerous lesions on the face.
● A former football player. He is known to experience memory lapses; wears hearing aid. As well as riding horses on his California ranch, the President is believed to keep fit by "pumping iron" to keep his physique in shape. Does not smoke.

How to bowl a back over

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttard

Ian Botham and Dennis Lillee are only two of the many fast bowlers who have found that cricket increases the strain already put on the spine by virtue of man's upright position. Joggers and tennis players, particularly those with a ferocious serve, are also frequent sufferers. But nearly everybody who has lived an active, physical life starts to develop signs and symptoms of wear and tear in the lower back in the fullness of time. At the age of 60, more than 50 per cent of all spines X-rayed show a degree of degenerative joint disease. The reaction to Botham's troubles exemplifies misunderstandings about back pain; Duncan Fearnley, the Worcestershire chairman, is reported to have said that at first Botham was thought to have only sciatica, as if this was a separate disease rather than a description of a symptom.

Sciatica is the name given to the pain which starts in the low back and radiates down along the sciatic nerve through the buttocks to the back of the legs. Like many symptoms, it has a variety of causes which are of varying importance. Although often related to the wearing out of the spinal joints, it can also be due to disc lesions, to congenital malformations of the spine, of a type II familial hyperlipoproteinaemia, which carries with it an increased chance of early coronary thrombosis. One in six patients with this metabolic disorder have a heart attack before they are 40, and two out of three of them have trouble by the age of 60.

Fortunately an early arcus is not always associated with arterial disease, but it is worthwhile for ambitious young executives with some medical knowledge to while away the boring moments at a board meeting by looking into the eyes of their superiors in an attempt to gauge their chances of promotion.

A month ago, Ian Coulter, journalist and former chronicler of Winston Churchill, woke with nausea and vomiting. He spent the night assuming he had food poisoning, but the next morning an ECG revealed the truth — he had had a heart attack. A recent report in the *American Journal of Cardiology* shows that a myocardial infarction (a coronary) often presents in this way. Fifty-three per cent of patients who were admitted to an intensive care unit with chest pain due to a heart attack also had nausea and vomiting. Patients are alert to the dangers of misdiagnosing heart pain as indigestion, but are still confused when vomiting complicates the picture: they should be assured that no doctor minds being called out to a patient with chest pain.

Sick at heart

Early diagnosis of coronary thrombosis will become increasingly important with the advent of thrombolytic drugs which, if given intravenously within four hours of its onset, can dissolve the clot in the artery which is the cause of the heart attack. The use of thrombolytic drugs, combined with aspirin, will reduce the death rate from myocardial infarction by 50 to 60 per cent, and some benefits can still be noticed if treatment is given 24 hours after an attack. Within a fortnight of his disturbed night Ian Coulter was attending a wedding

and occasionally to tumours or abscesses pressing on the nerve roots; it is the pressure on the nerve group, for whatever reason, which causes the agonizing pain (worse on coughing, sneezing or straining), restricts movement, and causes spasm in the back muscles. A twisting and lifting action will often, as it did when Botham was fielding, precipitate disaster, but again as in Botham's case, the underlying pathology which is the root cause of the trouble is often long-standing.

Back injuries are apt to occur when the patient is overtired or stressed for other reasons. Botham's well publicized scenes in Australia will not have helped his back, nor will his long walk on the hard surfaces of the Alpine roads. In Botham's case, it is reported that as a result of degenerative disease one vertebra has slipped forward on another, so that the spine is now a quarter of an inch out of line, a condition known as spondylolisthesis. It can be corrected by an operation in which the two vertebrae are fused together with bone grafts; while these grafts are taking, the patient wears a plaster cast. If a good result is obtained, he should be able to return to cricket.

reception in the Reform Club, but if other patients in future are to make an equally good recovery, both they and their doctors will have to be prepared to make an immediate diagnosis, rather than waiting to see what morning brings.

Slow beat

If Monsieur Michel Rocard, the French Prime Minister, suddenly invites Mrs Thatcher to hold his hand and feel his wrist, she should not misinterpret the gesture: he is apparently inordinately proud of his slow pulse rate, 50 to the minute. Bradyarrhythmia, a pulse rate of under 60, is commonly due to increased vagal tone such as is found in ultra-fit, healthy young athletes, hence the 57-year-old Frenchman's pride. It also occurs during deep relaxation, as when asleep, and for a host of less flattering causes, including jaundice, an underactive thyroid, or some gastrointestinal troubles. Rocard would be less proud of his pulse rate if he knew that in elderly patients it can be a sign of arteriosclerotic heart disease. When at rest, people normally tolerate a pulse rate of 40-60 without inconvenience, although exercise can pose a problem to a small number of people. A rate of under 40 always needs immediate investigation, and if it falls below 20 the patient starts to suffer the serious consequences from an inadequate supply of blood to the brain.

Eye on the news

An alert doctor watching John Sackett on television noticed that he had an arcus senilis, a grey-white line which forms around the iris of the eye and, in young people, often denotes raised blood fats, particularly serum cholesterol. The doctor was so concerned that he contacted Sackett and recommended the appropriate blood tests. These showed a raised cholesterol, and Sackett is now following a strict dietary regime. An early arcus can be a sign

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TIMES DIARY

ALAN COREN

Middle is a dispiritingly practical age. There is a tendency to sift through unfulfilled dreams and begin chucking out the wilder ones, because they are never going to be any use to you, and to be sensible about making room in the dwindling attic of possibility for just a few of the tamer numbers. I no longer, for example, expect to be asked to make up a four for the North face of the Eiger, or to have the dividing door of my Inverness sleeper burst open, precipitating a shoe-eyed sleeper into my bunk.

I have become a little too overweight for the Aintree course, and a little too myopic for Malcolm Marshall's short-pitched stuff, and, since this is the best prose-style I can muster, I recently put a bracket-clock in that space on the mantelpiece hitherto reserved for the Nobel Prize.

At about the same time, I also jettisoned the oldest dream I owned. I had had it for over forty years, and there was clearly no point in hanging on to it when I needed the space for a more sensible item — in this instance, a fantasy in which I find a shower that keeps the same temperature throughout — so I junked it. And, wouldn't you know, no sooner had I done so than I suddenly needed to lay my hands on it?

In the spring of 1944 I was sitting on Blackpool beach and wondering whether there was anything worse to be than a five-year-old evacuee when so major a shadow passed over me that for a moment I thought that God had finally done as nightly requested and arrived to take me back to London.

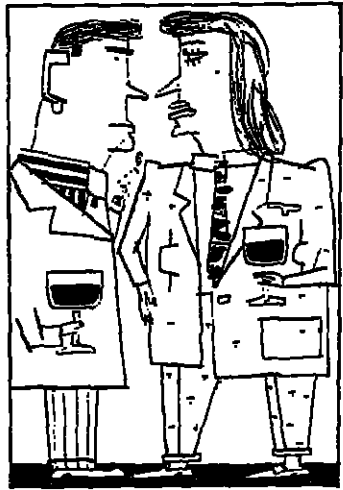
I looked up, and was not immediately disabused: while the shadow wasn't God's — because even at five I knew that God didn't have twin engines — that wasn't to say that the plane it belonged to mightn't have had God at the controls. Not only was it the most beautiful plane I had ever seen, it could perform miracles. Ten seconds later, it landed in the sea. It didn't sink. It walked on water.

It was a Catalina. It looked like a steel gull. It had a 100ft wingspan and the body of a racing launch. I learned a lot about it in the next few days, because I had never wanted to know as much about anything before. Not only could it fly 4,000 miles without refuelling and land on water, it could also land on land, because it was amphibious.

It was the best vehicle there had ever been. If you had a Catalina, everything was possible. There was nowhere you couldn't go, and nothing you couldn't do when you got there. Getting into a Catalina was equivalent to Clark Kent's walking into a phone booth. Until puberty came along to interfere, the Catalina was the only thing worth dreaming about.

I never saw one again. Grown, but still preoccupied with the idea of flying one, I would make inquiries and be told they had all been scrapped. There would be occasional rumours, Yeti-like, to the effect that one had been sighted carrying mail in the Solomons, another was joyriding around the Canadian lakes, and so on, but they never came to anything. So, eventually, I yielded the dream to the bin.

BARRY FANTONI



'We used to be Green Belt but I think we're now Bible Belt'

It is no coincidence that "Some Enchanted Evening" was written for a middle-aged glibber. On February 24, 1988, I saw a stranger across a crowded room, and somehow I knew. In that peripatetic shuffling common to all cocktail parties, I eventually fetched up against him, and he introduced himself as Dr Alan Borg, Curator of the Imperial War Museum. We talked of this and that, and inevitably at last, of the smiler.

He smiled. He had every right to. He knew where to find a Catalina.

Last Sunday was an extraordinary day. Last Sunday knew I was coming. Stip pathetic fallacy into nostalgia and you have as intoxicating a brew as you can shake a joystick at. Not only does Duxford Aerodrome, active wing of the Imperial War Museum, lie in flattest Cambridgeshire, where the landscape is 10 per cent earth and 90 per cent sky, so that nature seems to have established the apt priorities, but the weather itself appeared to have been restored, like Duxford's veteran aircraft, to mint 1940 condition.

Last Sunday, you could lie on the warm grass airstrip from which Bader once took off and look past the propeller of a Spitfire hub-deep in daisies and see vapour trails diffusing themselves into the blue. You could smell Lancaster on the breeze, and feel your fillings resonate to piston-engined harmonics, a dental treat I had not savoured in decades. Jets don't do it.

The Catalina stood on the apron, four-dimensional: if I narrowed my eyes, I could see Blackpool Pier behind it. Braced for the disappointment of finding it less than I had never remembered or imagined, I had never guessed that finding it so much more would leave me flummoxed: the machine had the kind of beauty which transcended sentimentality.

You could look at it objectively and reflect that it was only technology which had made it obsolete; had it been a question solely of aesthetics, aeronautical design could have stopped right there. This was as beautiful as a plane was ever going to be.

So we took it up, and it flew like a tractor, but it didn't matter a damn.

There is a good chance that the row over yesterday's decision not to refer the Nestlé bid for Rowntree will be one of the last of the politicized takeover crises.

The media attention, delegations of workers, parliamentary questions and debates, the mobilization of the Council of the North and lobbying on each side of the case are a clue to what has been wrong with British competition policy.

The Rowntree case gives three clues to better future handling of contested takeovers. Its first virtue has been to highlight that companies compete in a global market and puts a final nail in the "big is bad" fashion of the 1970s. It points British competition law to the European model, where it is the abuse of a dominant position rather than mere scale of operation which exposes a business to official sanctions and penalties.

The new approach ought to follow that sketched out in the recent Green Paper on restrictive trade practices. Under its proposals cartels and anti-competitive agreements and practices will be illegal and subject to fines when proved; in addition, state enforcement will be accompanied by rights for injured third parties to recover damages.

The second benefit of the

Graham Mather on the lessons to be learnt from the Rowntree affair

Takeovers: no more politics

Rowntree approach is that it transfers attention from what government thinks is the model of a successful business to what shareholders, customers and employees actually want.

In a thorough review of the logic of mergers for the Institute of Economic Affairs, Professor Brian Chiplin and Dr Mike Wright put their finger on the "We know better than you" line of argument. They quoted a view once expressed by Sir Gordon Borrie, Director General of the Office of Fair Trading, that the way in which shareholders operated "does not encourage me to believe that their decisions to buy or sell shares at a particular price will necessarily bring about the most efficient deployment of and development of the assets which these shares represent."

Chiplin & Wright argue that no mechanism is perfect — but is there a system which self-corrects better than the choices of myriads of decision takers in the

form of individual shareholders and their financial institutions? And what evidence is there that the OFT, Monopolies and Mergers Commission or government agencies make better decisions? The history of takeover policy has been a shifting sands in which first one criterion and then another looms up as a test. Is it competition — or reciprocity? Should regional policy, or official doubts about a particular entrepreneur, govern the day? Scepticism is in order about the consistency and soundness of politicized judgements.

So the third Rowntree benefit is that it will encourage companies to look to their own defences. They are already beginning to sense that a more liberal approach to the freedom of companies to protect themselves may now provide more efficient economic outcomes.

Shareholders in world financial markets can choose to invest in companies with restrictive,

anti-takeover provisions, or otherwise. But the base line will be set by companies which are open to takeover because it is the threat of takeover, regardless of whether or not a business actually changes control, that provides discipline on management.

British legislators should ponder the "Delaware effect". The state's liberal, deregulated company law code has been adopted by most leading US companies and has without doubt contributed significantly to the success of the US economy, in which British companies last year invested \$30 billion on acquisitions. The US approach permits companies to adopt anti-merger devices ranging from "golden parachutes" for managers, "Pac-Man" counter bids and "shark repellent" or "poison pill" weighted voting provisions to make a business expensive or difficult to acquire.

The approach may offer something for Britain, because the

quid pro quo of a more liberal approach to competition policy — on its way, in any case, from Europe — is that Stock Exchange and Takeover Code restrictions on defensive mechanisms may have to be reassessed.

In a limited market for world-class management talent, it makes economic sense that shareholders should be able to come to their own view about the scale of defensive mechanisms which they wish their companies to adopt. This approach would help to clarify the debate about alleged City short-termism as well for institutional investors would have a responsibility to come to a reasoned view about legitimate defence systems, as well as bid opportunities. The current signs are that they do want to strike a better balance between time for managements to prove themselves, and too much protection. It is better that investors should look to this than governments.

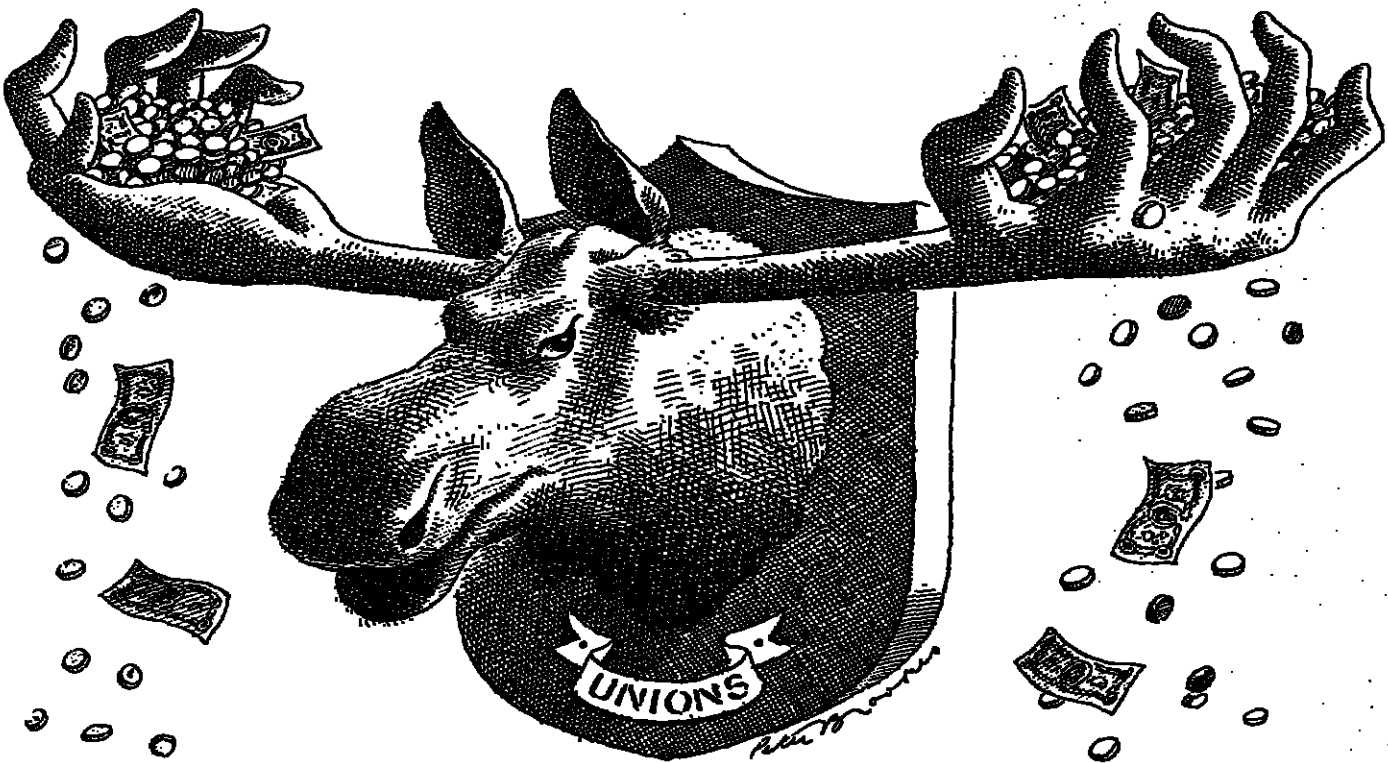
The scale of adoption of such defences would prompt careful thinking in the City, for it could have undoubted consequences on London markets and exchanges if overdone. But it is wholly coincidental that the US and Switzerland, which follow a liberal approach to takeovers and a preparedness to let companies and shareholders choose their preferred approach, lead the world's economic performance, ranking first and second in gross national product per capita, at approximately double Britain's performance?

Today's critics of Sir Gordon Borrie and Lord Young must face one question: can the market for corporate control in Britain work if every case is as politicized as Rowntree, or its recent predecessors? But with a European model of more predictable competition policy, a consistent backing-off by Britain's own takeover policemen, and a greater freedom for companies to choose the degree of importance they attach to keeping existing managements or strengthening external incentives, Britain could have a world-class competition policy. That could be the Rowntree legacy.

The author is General Director of the Institute of Economic Affairs.

Bernard Levin

State of the rapacious union



but by whatever name it goes, it comes to the same thing, viz., that if there are two dogs and one bone, the bone will go to the bigger, or fiercer, or more determined dog.

The national newspapers of Britain were in thrall to their printing and distribution workers for decades on end; the corruption which that bondage bred — extortion, broken faith, censorship, anarchy, even crime — was the result of power misused, and it could be ended only, and was ended only, when that power was fought head on, and beaten.

Once again, I have to point out that Lord Acton did not say "All power corrupts". But what he did say, which was "Power tends to corrupt", is quite enough for our purposes. The strength of Britain's labour laws is shown not by the way they trammel the union leaders' power, but by the way they have put the power into the hands of the members.

Which was chicken, and which was egg, is not easy to discover; but the result has been that throughout the union movement the rank and file are far ahead of their leaders in vision, good sense, and a finely judged estimation of where their true interests lie. (We haven't for some time now had a claim by Lord Wedderburn that the Tory labour laws will lead only to greater industrial trouble. Perhaps he has been struck permanently speechless by the growing popularity of no-strike deals.)

I do not know whether our labour laws could be translated into American, or whether they could grow roots there. If I am right about human nature being at the heart of the trouble, I imagine they could. But while I am waiting to find out, I wish the *New York Times* the best of British luck. Oh, and they may care to know that there is a town in Connecticut called Wapping. Just thought I'd mention it.

It is widely believed in Britain that American trade unions, compared to our own, are weak and ineffective. Those who hold this view point out that fewer than a third of Americans eligible to join unions actually do so, and that when they come up against determined opposition they collapse at the first shot, as witness the ease with which, a few years ago, President Reagan destroyed the Air Traffic Controllers Union when its members went on strike.

Those whose memories go back an extra decade or two will recall men like John L. Lewis, leader of the American Mine-workers (he invented the Healey eyebrow), and those who go back even further than I do should remember the great David Dubinsky, of the Ladies' Garment Workers Union; these were men of power, runs the rubric, but their heirs and assigns are but feeble copies. (There was also Jimmy Hoffa and the Teamsters, but they all spent so much time murdering one another that they quite forgot the members, until it was time to blackmail them again.)

So goes the argument, anyway, but a few days ago I read the following statement on the front page of the *New York Times*, and I was hit by so powerful and abrupt a sensation of déjà vu that I hardly had strength to giggle:

"To our readers: A series of slowdowns and other job actions by the drivers' union have curtailed some distribution of *The New York Times*. These actions are associated with contract negotiations, and *The Times* is unable to say how long the disruptions may continue. We regret the inconvenience to our readers."

Natsopa, thou shouldst be living at this hour! Here are some very tough fellows, living in a climate of economic ruthlessness, in charge of a national institution, who discover, as we of Fleet Street discovered, that words such as

"contract", "agreement", "settled", "promise", "negotiated", "future" and even "agenda" have no meaning whatever, and that a meeting arranged to tidy up the last, unimportant details is likely to open with a demand for 96 hitherto very substantial unmentioned changes in what has been settled.

But it isn't only the newspapers. Here is a union called the Custodians, whose job is to look after maintenance of New York's schools; the Custodians do repairs, paint buildings, supervise the use of schools for extra-curricular activities after hours. But from the details which have emerged from the Custodians' negotiations with the Board of Education, it is clear that they could have given lessons in Spanish practices to Sogit itself.

For instance, they used to collect a rake-off from supervising the after-hours meetings in

the schools, but under the new terms they let the perk. However, they get an extra \$6,000 a year to make up (and, I dare say, much more than make up) what they have lost, which is anyway on top of a 15 per cent pay rise over the next three years.

Furthermore, the Board of Education demanded that the principal of a school in the system should have control over conditions in it; not an unreasonable proposition, you might think. But the Custodians thought it outrageous, and the demand was abandoned; while they were about it, they said that extra Custodians should be hired, and won that round, too.

The best of all — for pity's sake don't tell Nalga about this one — was the agreement on the heavy equipment bought for the schools, including Jeeps; the Custodians not only

use it — they own it. And the rule which lays down that school cafeterias may be mopped only once a week stands inviolate.

More insights, it seems that there is a move afoot to put some unions (specifically, the Teamsters) under government trusteeship. I must say I find enchanting the idea of nationalizing not only the means of production, distribution and exchange, but the unions themselves, and I am not surprised to see that indignantly worded advertisements are now appearing, protesting against the government's plan.

But amid all this uproar (I forgot — Governor Cuomo cancelled his booking for a room in a hotel when he discovered that the place is non-union), it is rather nice to contemplate the unionization of Harvard University; the office, service and technical workers have just voted by 1,530 votes to 1,486 to accept union representation,

with Harvard crying "We were robbed!" and claiming that there were ballot irregularities to be investigated.

The question of which country, Britain or America, has the weaker unions is not to be solved merely by recounting such episodes as these. But I am not really trying to evaluate their respective muscle power, or for that matter *chutzpah*, and I certainly have no wish to jeer at the *New York Times* as it writhes in the grip of tentacles that are so familiar to us.

The lesson I want to teach has nothing to do with unions in particular, but everything to do with human nature in general. You can call it original sin, or short-sightedness, or greed, or nature's way, or the survival of the fittest, or fear of the unknown, or A Shortest Way with Dissenters, or the Big Bad Wolf Syndrome, or what we have to hold, or all bosses are bastards,

Commentary • RONALD BUTT

A power forgone

We speak of the Constitution in solemn tones, calling on the law books and Erskine May to substantiate our case. We affect to be bound constitutionally by the force of precedent and history. But the truth is rather that we make up the Constitution as we go along, not in obedience to a clear blueprint of principle but in hurried response to the ad hoc demands of immediate political necessity.

Even radical shifts in our constitutional evolution have hung on the accident that particular people were born, particular things happened, and particular political realities had to be constitutionally accommodated. Last Monday, the Constitution was changed in a minor but not insignificant way simply because a Tory government had got itself into a political scrape. As a result, the House of Lords threw away its claim to be not merely a revising chamber but also one with the lawful right to impose a year's delay on a government Bill if time for reflection seemed to be in the public interest.

It was always a power to be used sparingly. The Parliament Act of 1911 extinguished the Lords' power over money Bills and reduced their power over other Bills to a delay of no more than two years, which was reduced to one year in 1949.

In the earlier post-war years, the Lords' routine influence and activity sank to their low point and it was not unusual for the Lord Chancellor to take his seat on the Woolsack at 2.30 pm and for the House to rise within the hour.

The institution of life peerages, including for women, in 1957 transformed the Lords into a valuable revising chamber which devotes much time to amending and improving Com-

mons Bills for which the lower house lacks time enough. Although life peers are only the equivalent of first-generation hereditary peers (both are products of prime ministerial patronage) there has been a difference in practice perhaps because it is now a matter of general course to send to the Lords people not necessarily equipped to keep up an hereditary position.

As well as the revising power, however, the Lords had their right in principle to delay Bills. Although there is elastic scope for arguing about when it may be exercised, it has been widely seen to be a reserve power for use when it seemed that there was deep public disquiet about a measure and evidence that if the government majority in the Commons had had a free vote it might not have been passed.

Arguably, the poll tax came into this category. So, after the Government's Commons majority for the Bill had been reduced to 25, an onslaught was mounted on it in the Lords by an amendment requiring the Government to relate the poll tax to ability to pay, but without prescribing how.

Although I suspect that the Government will come to regret the poll tax, I also see that on party political grounds the Conservative majority in the Lords was right to reject an amendment which would have made nonsense of the Bill to no practical purpose. The Government could not have accepted it, the Whip and a confidence vote would have been applied and if the Lords had delayed the Bill for a year, the only outcome would have been to bring in the tax embarrassingly close to the next election. For Tory lords, it was the lesser of two evils.

But what is important are the

grounds on which the action was advocated. Both Lord Whitelaw and Lord Hailsham advised rejection on the amendment not principally on the grounds that it would spoil a good Bill but because the Lords should not get into confrontation with the elected chamber and thus jeopardize their valuable revising role by using their legal delaying role. The latter was virtually declared a dead letter and after last Monday it probably is.

That is regrettable. Not long ago Lord Hailsham was rightly preaching against the potential principal of dictatorship "of the Commons. The best safeguard against this is a responsible second chamber which the House of Lords, because of its composition, is not. Attempts to reform it by putting it on to some kind of elected basis have persistently been frustrated by the Labour Party which prefers a weak upper house vulnerable to cheap grouse-moor metaphors to a more respected second chamber that might impede its own kind of elected Commons dictatorship.

After using their hereditary cohorts against the poll tax amendment on the grounds that the Commons must not be offended, the Tories will have not the slightest ground for encouraging the voting majority of the Lords (even when it consists of working life peers) to resist any dictatorial measure by a future socialist government. So the Constitution has been changed because Mrs Thatcher committed herself to abolishing the rates, found a substitute hard to devise and finally hit upon a flat-rate tax disliked by many Tories. Still, it is the way the Constitution has always evolved from the unforeseen contingencies of practical politics.

SCIENCE REPORT

Whaling harpooned

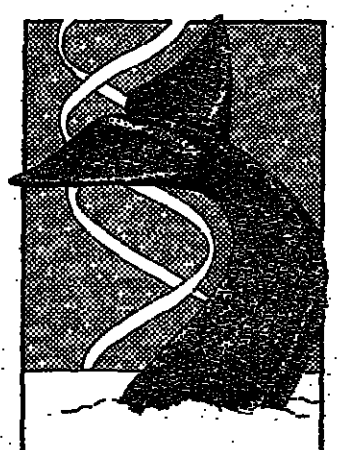
The defence of the continued killing of whales by Japanese and Icelandic whalers will be undermined by a technique for the genetic analysis of living whales described today in *Nature*.

The continued killing of whales has hitherto been justified by the argument that there is no other way of telling the size and the age-structure of the different species of whales. But now A. Rus Hoelzel and William Amos of the University of Cambridge say the same information can be taken from the genetic analysis of a few milligrams of skin taken from a free-swimming whale.

This development will give pause to the conference of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) in Auckland this week. The need for what has been called "scientific whaling" has been disputed during the past few years by some of the whaling nations adhering to the voluntary moratorium on the hunting of most whale species.

Last June, Japan announced that its fleet would kill nearly 900 whales (825 minke and 50 sperm whales) under the provisions of the IWC rules allowing scientific whaling, but there are indications that the number taken during the past year may have been smaller because of US threats to restrict Japanese fishing rights in the Pacific. Iceland has announced plans to take 200-300 whales a year under the same provisions.

The proposed technique, called DNA fingerprinting, for learning about whale popula-



Paul Bryant

tions is an extension to whale species of the technique of genetic fingerprinting which, among other things, has revolutionized some aspects of forensic science during the past three years.

Hoelzel and Amos argue that, by telling how closely individual whales are related to one another, fingerprinting allows the structure of the population of a species to be reconstructed, as well as showing the extent of genetic variation in the stocks of living whales. This bears on the question of how small a population of whales may be safely to survive.

The method, pioneered by Alec Jeffreys of the University of Leicester, depends on the small and sometimes trivial differences between individuals which are found in the arrangement of chemical units along the length of the genetic DNA molecules.

The result is a DNA pattern

distinctive to each individual. Because the distinctive features of the DNA are inherited from an individual's parents, it is also possible to tell how closely related two individuals may be.

For these reasons, DNA fingerprinting is now used almost as a matter of routine to settle cases involving identification and relationship, as in paternity suits. It is now possible to identify a person from a single hair, as researchers in California demonstrated last month. In Britain, Cellmark Diagnostics, in which ICI has a majority stake, has been offering commercial fingerprinting services for nearly a year.

Amos and Hoelzel are applying the technique to sea mammals. Amos presented his data to a scientific committee of the IWC in San Diego last week. Just as in humans, DNA fingerprints could be used in whales to link parents with progeny. Data already from grey seals show that it is possible to identify enough pairs of mothers and pups for the structure and dynamics of the population to be reconstructed.

Application so far to whales shows that the pilot whale has less genetic variability than other species. Although a small degree of genetic variability is often a sign of inbreeding, one explanation may be that the underlying genetic structure of the pilot whale may differ substantially from that of most other whale species.

HENRY GEE



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A MYTH NO MORE

The American Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) began life with a bad name. Almost immediately after President Reagan's famous speech in 1983, the research project became known by its enemies as "Star Wars". Soon — adding to the impression of something fanciful, a science fiction notion that could be easily dismissed.

Moscow had an instant catchphrase with which to attack SDI and foster doubts among the United States' European allies. The strategic thinking which inspired the presidential dream — the idea that both sides should move gradually towards a more defensive military posture and away from total dependence on offensive nuclear weapons — was obscured.

In three articles this week, however, *The Times* has shown how SDI has grown up. It can no longer be dismissed as fantasy. The \$12 billion spent so far has produced some remarkable results. Many experienced American scientists and engineers have admitted that five years ago they would have described some of the SDI concepts as impossible. What seemed impossible then has now been achieved in the laboratory.

Some of the problems faced by the men and women engaged in the research may still be proved insurmountable. It is one thing to carry out successful experiments in the laboratory — quite another to convert them into prototype weapon systems and test them in space. No one can ever be absolutely certain that a system will work effectively unless it is faced with the ultimate test, a real ballistic missile attack.

But total security and absolute certainty can never be achieved through SDI or anything else. Five years after the speech by President Reagan SDI has to be viewed as a deterrent. Even a limited system, once deployed, should help to deter a potential enemy contemplating a surprise attack. The Soviet Union would be faced with serious doubt about the number of missiles that could "leak" through a defensive shield — and what opposing missiles would

consequently survive the first strike to hit back. Officials in the Pentagon widen the argument by pointing to the number of countries which are now stockpiling intermediate-range conventionally-armed ballistic missiles. As the missile war between Iran and Iraq continues, they ask whether there should not be protection against this increasing threat. And should not the United States be protected against the risk of an accidental "strike" — a missile which has been launched by mistake?

SDI today no longer depends on a dream. Few at the time shared President Reagan's vision of a system which would make nuclear weapons obsolete. But there are now clear indications that weapons can be made which are capable of intercepting ballistic missiles in space.

The next question is whether SDI and the Soviet Union's equivalent research programme will lead to greater stability and to a reduced dependence on nuclear weapons, as its supporters envisaged. According to US Air Force General Robert Herres, vice-chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the concept deserves a chance. It is worth a try, at least, he says. His argument is persuasive. The potential gains are too great to pass by.

This is why the concept of strategic defence must not die once President Reagan has left office. Nor should it become the ultimate bargaining chip at the negotiating table for the sake of a treaty with the Soviet Union on strategic offensive weapons. Dependence on nuclear weapons will not be reduced by halving the arsenal of long-range missiles. The 6,000 strategic warheads left on either side by such a deal would become more accurate and more capable of survival over the years.

The scientists and engineers engaged in SDI research are confident that defence against ballistic missiles is possible. Deterrence is the key. If a non-nuclear defence system, ground-based and space-based, can provide a credible and affordable deterrent, it would be foolish both for the United States, and her allies, to give up the chance now.

OPPORTUNITY MISSED

At substantial public expense, British companies have been urged by the Trade and Industry Secretary, Lord Young, to prepare themselves for the single European market after 1992. That prospect will be viewed with gloom today in boardrooms and factories well beyond those of Rowntree's home in York. Some may have already concluded that their preparations will merely make it more attractive for astute continental competitors to buy them, with governmental approval, a tactic too often not available in reverse.

Prominent among the Trade Secretary's reasons for rejecting a reference of a Rowntree takeover to the Monopolies Commission was that Britain must not be seen to erect barriers against inward investment by acquisition when British companies lead the world in foreign takeovers. As a principle, this should be beyond dispute. But it is not an adequate response to the real practical challenge of European trade integration.

Behind this takeover policy lies a long-standing fear of provoking incipient protectionist tendencies in the United States, whose share markets are nearly as open to hostile takeovers as London. The fear is well-founded, especially as so many British companies have recently become hostile financial predators in the US. Leading by example is an appropriate response. An upsurge of financial protectionism would be wrong in itself and counterproductive.

That general proposition should overlay but not preclude a more specific approach to preparations for a single European market. It is a common error to suppose that an investigation by the Monopolies Commission is a bar to a takeover. It is not, especially now that Lord Young has speeded up the investigation process.

In the case of the British chocolate industry it would primarily have provided a forum to consider the issues of competition in changing markets. It would also have allowed Rowntree

and its potential British partner Cadbury-Schweppes to consider an alternative link that would have been ruled out previously because it would drastically reduce competition at home.

Lord Young's explanation of his decision implied that a Cadbury Rowntree link would still be ruled out. As a result, both Rowntree and Cadbury, each perfectly capable of competing strongly in a free European market, will probably both end up in foreign hands before they have a chance to do so.

In effect, the Government has decided that mergers will only be considered in terms of competition in the single European market and when deals have been struck in Brussels for free trade in that sector. This woefully ignores the dynamics of economic integration that the single market is aimed at generating.

British merger policy has long paid too little attention to potential competition and too much to existing shares of markets. In the European context, this is central. In the confectionary business, for instance, it is perfectly true that a takeover of Rowntree by Nestlé or Suchard would not seriously affect competition in the 1988 British market, while a merger of Cadbury and Rowntree would. But after 1992, Rowntree and Cadbury would be able to compete more aggressively in several continental markets, whether separately or together. They have built strong foundations for such competition. This in turn would force continental firms to respond by competing harder in Britain.

In many industries, cross-border mergers can increase potential competition by creating more groups capable of competing across the European market. In others, takeovers will remove the potential competition, preempting the benefits of a single European market to consumers before they start. The Monopolies Commission was the appropriate body to ask which case best applies to a Swiss takeover of Rowntree.

TEMPORARY APPARATCHIKS

Delegates to the Soviet Communist Party conference next month will be asked to limit the tenure of party officials to a maximum of 10 years, or two five-year terms. This change, which would effectively end the practice — and the principle — of life tenure, could do more than almost anything else to change the character of the Communist Party. In a highly bureaucratic system, it strikes at the fundamentals of bureaucratic power.

Tenure for officials has had the distinction of being among the most contentious and least openly discussed issues in Soviet politics. Even in the early days of the Soviet Union, the dangers of a securely entrenched bureaucracy were recognized and feared. The replacement of one ruling bureaucracy by another was a risk singled out by Lenin. It was a danger Trotsky's concept of perpetual revolution was intended to counter.

Under Stalin, bureaucratic entrenchment was avoided only by the inhumane method of purges at every level of the apparatus. When that method became unacceptable and Khrushchev needed to consolidate his power, he turned his attention to limiting tenure. Khrushchev's calculated challenge to the bureaucracy is believed to have contributed more to his downfall than his most quixotic political actions.

For Mr Gorbachev to take up the cause where Khrushchev left it, as he did without success shortly after he came to office, was a bold move, but it made good political sense. He, no less than Khrushchev, needed his own apparatus, obedient to his programme of economic and political reform. Party officials at every level had just as little interest in

change as ever and were still as capable of making or breaking reform as 30 years before. But there are reasons why Mr Gorbachev now has a greater chance of success than Khrushchev ever did. For the officials and the public of Khrushchev's day, security was a privilege expensively bought in Stalin's purges and not tightly to be given up. Three decades later, that same security has been discredited by Gorbachev as the cause of Soviet backwardness.

Today, even senior party officials acknowledge the damage to their country's image and its political authority of the "time of troubles" — the five years of perestroika leadership before Mr Gorbachev came to power. They may recognize, too, the benefits of attracting new people and new ideas to positions of responsibility.

Even so, Mr Gorbachev might not succeed. The status of the party bureaucracy as a privileged caste is as safe as it has ever been, and as apart from the rest of the population. Party officials are even subject to a different justice: Central Committee members have to be stripped of their party position before they can be tried in court. So much have officials to lose that even if the measure is passed, and it is bound to provoke resistance even now, there is no guarantee that it will be implemented.

If it is implemented, however, there is the first real possibility of change in the Soviet system itself. The self-perpetuating bureaucracy is one of the pillars which supports the omnipotence of the Communist Party. If tenure for party officials is restricted, the tenure of the Communist Party itself may start to look less permanent.

Disputed choice of aero-engine

From the Chairman of the Air League

Sir, The interested public will have read with considerable concern words attributed to Mr Gordon Page of Rolls-Royce (report, May 19). Speaking of the American General Electric Company, makers of the engine proposed by them for the Anglo-Italian EH 101 helicopter as an alternative to the Rolls-Royce Turbomeca 322 engine, Mr Page is reported to have said that General Electric want Rolls-Royce and the rest of Europe out of the helicopter engine manufacturing business.

Making due allowance for the fact that Rolls-Royce is in competition with General Electric, these words reflect with chilling frankness the critical nature of the decision now facing the Ministry of Defence in choosing an engine for the EH 101 aircraft.

I am not, of course, privy to the details of the current contractual battle, but if past experience is any guide, the choice may well lie between a European engine that is somewhat more expensive in the short term, and an American rival which is offered on apparently cheaper terms made possible by the greater production volume of American industry and by a strategy aimed at sinking the opposition once and for all.

The fundamental drawback to opting for any cheaper solution without regard to national considerations is the creation of a foreign monopoly able to dictate its own terms when the time comes for the next engine to be built; such short-term savings will prove to be burdensome in the not-so-long term. Yours faithfully, CHAS NESS, Chairman, The Air League, Grey Tiles, Kingston Hill, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, May 23.

Health spending

From Mr Stephen Schattmann

Sir, Why is it that the problems of "unacceptably long waiting lists" and "closed wards" (leader, May 17) plaguing this country are not to be found in other "comparable countries"? Because, your leader writes, we are adopting the line of reasoning of health ministers in recent months, they devote more resources to private medicine.

The truth is that these countries spend more, significantly more, in the public sector than does the United Kingdom. My basis for this claim? The integrated social protection statistics of the EC whose latest data are available for 1975-83.

The following figures represent health care benefits per head of population at 1980 prices; they are expressed in purchasing power parities, thus giving a more realistic picture than the use of conventional exchange rates. They should be treated as approximations and have been rounded to the nearest 10 purchasing power standards (first figure, 1975; second figure, 1983):

Netherlands, 600, 670; Germany, 620, 670; Denmark, 630, 650; France, 460, 610; Luxembourg, 400, 530; Belgium, 400, 530; EEC (9 average), 440, 521; Italy, 290, 400; United Kingdom, 330, 360; Ireland, 310, 350.

Why, one wonders, do these data not form part of public discussion? And perhaps some MEP could persuade the Community statisticians to bring the series up to date.

Yours faithfully, STEPHAN SCHATTMANN, 65c Wigmore Street, W1, May 17.

From Dr Margaret McKiddie Sir, In the figures that you quote from the DHSS computerised performance indicators (report, May 16) Gloucester is shown as only "needing" 71 doctors to treat 100,000 patients, compared to very much higher figures in other areas.

The medical staff committee of this hospital is very well aware that we employ many fewer doctors per 100,000 patients than the regional and national average. We do feel quite strongly that we need more consultants.

Yours faithfully, MARGARET T. MCKIDDIE (Chairman, Medical Staff Committee), Gloucester Health Authority, Gloucestershire Royal Hospital, Great Western Road, Gloucester.

Pharaoh's plants

From Professor W. T. Stearn

Sir, The reported rediscovery at Kew of plant remains from Tutankhamun's tomb (article, May 19) is not so sensational as sudden publicity has made it seem. The student involved would have seen nothing of this material had it not been already known and cooperatively made available to him. The report failed to state that a botanist at Kew has been working for some years on ancient Egyptian plant remains and has indeed published on them.

This subject is not new. The late Professor Percy E. Newberry (1869-1949), who assisted in the Tutankhamun excavation, was not only a professor of Egyptology, and ancient Egyptian history but also an expert botanist and he published on the Tutankhamun plant material for Howard Carter in 1927.

The beginning of the last paragraph of Mr J. B. Randle's letter yesterday should have said: "I challenge the IHSM to explain how 'competition' can be created between a non-paying (and non-costed) service for everyone alongside a marginal paying system for those who can afford it."

Tory claims to high moral ground

From Mr Harold McDonald

Sir, The richer among us come upon the eye of the needle perhaps rather later than they should in the sequence you so clearly describe in your letter. "The moral defence" (May 23). As a one time systems man I applaud Mrs Thatcher's concentration on production efficiency and economy, but I see wealth creation now, with the aid of the micro-chip, moving with geometric, rather than arithmetic, progression. (I envy my successor his chip as my predecessor envied my transistor.) But is Mrs Thatcher being fair about distribution? And are you?

I contemplate the shelves at Sainsbury and Asda with other old folk and it is obvious their price tuning is down to pence very often. It is sad to see. I don't suggest they would claim, or need, a geometric rather than their arithmetic cost of living increases, but the fact remains this country, in many areas, is awash with money.

I don't think the "intervention of the State" which is needed here needs to be on such a scale as would risk the diminution of "personal responsibility".

I concede Mrs Thatcher the high moral ground and applaud her stance in Scotland, but if she would climb down a step or two, and talk to the people who price the goods on the supermarket shelves some of what I see as their obvious humanity would I think get through to her. Wearing her housewife's hat.

Yours sincerely, HAROLD McDONALD, 6 Hawks Nest Gardens West, Leeds, West Yorkshire, May 24.

From the General Secretary of the United Reformed Church

Sir, Your editorial comment on the Prime Minister's Edinburgh speech seeks to defend current Government policies on the basis of a practical morality. It fails to persuade because it undervalues two primary constituents of Christian faith and teaching.

The State holds power. It can exercise it in many ways which tend towards either greater justice in human society or greater injustice. One emphasis of justice or righteousness in the Bible is to limit the acquisitiveness of the rich which, throughout history, has increased human divisions.

When the freedom of the individual has become a glorification of wealth, Christians will be called to protest and offer alternative styles of society. In the north Atlantic nations there are signs that this is now happening and needs to influence governments which claim a Christian morality.

The second element you under-value is community support for the defenceless and handicapped. The New Testament makes it quite plain that we are judged, not on our personal success record but by our care for others. This country will be judged not by the height of the office blocks nor by

Rowntree bidding

From Mr B. A. Cole

Sir, George Copeman's letter (May 21) suggests that employee ownership is an important factor in the Rowntree/Nestlé confrontation. On the same day Colin Campbell reports

... it is suggested that the percentage of private shareholders on the Rowntree share register has fallen from an original 25 per cent to between 7 and 10 per cent.

This may indicate that the employee shareholders do not entirely share Mr Copeman's conviction that "pride of ownership is an important motivator".

What he seems to be suggesting is that these "local owners" of shares should not have the freedom to take the profit that is available — in other words they should not be real investors.

I would be interested to see the evidence for Mr Copeman's statement that competition is likely to be increased and maintained at a high level when the law can disallow takeover bids which reduce the percentage of local ownership in an industry below half.

It sounds on the face of it a most unconvincing claim.

Yours faithfully, B. A. COLE, Drake Wood, Devonshire Avenue, Amersham, Buckinghamshire, May 23.

Pharaoh's plants

From Professor W. T. Stearn

Sir, The reported rediscovery at Kew of plant remains from Tutankhamun's tomb (article, May 19) is not so sensational as sudden publicity has made it seem. The student involved would have seen nothing of this material had it not been already known and cooperatively made available to him. The report failed to state that a botanist at Kew has been working for some years on ancient Egyptian plant remains and has indeed published on them.

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the glitter of our shopping malls but by the extent of our support for those in pain, hunger and despair throughout the human family. This is not altruism as an extra. It is solidarity in life and death choices for the world.

When you balance your understanding of "spiritual redemption and personal responsibility" by these central elements of biblical morality we shall begin a more constructive conversation between politicians and churches. Yours faithfully, BERNARD THOROGOOD, The United Reformed Church, 86 Tavistock Place WC1.

From Dr Lionel Tarassenko

Sir, Much of the current debate about Thatcherism is concerned with the moral responsibility that comes with increased wealth. Does Mrs Thatcher seriously think that the vast majority of those people who are now better off as a result of her policies use their extra cash for such altruistic purposes as "supporting artists and craftsmen" (report, May 23)? Are we not more likely, instead, to be thinking about the next holiday abroad or the new car or the bigger house that we can now afford for ourselves?

Although Mrs Thatcher obviously made no reference to it in her speech at the weekend, Christ's teaching in the Gospels is quite clear on this point: materialism does drive people away from God, spiritual values and concern for others.

Of course, the creation of wealth *per se* is not necessarily wrong: of course, it would not be right for the Chancellor to tell us how to spend our money every time he hands out another tax cut. However, there is no reason why governments cannot give a clear moral lead to their country, and this the Conservative governments have singularly failed to do in the last nine years.

If Christian values do mean anything to Mrs Thatcher and her ministers, perhaps they ought to ponder the last part of chapter 25 of Matthew's Gospel before the next budget: "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me". Yours faithfully, LIONEL TARASSENKO, St Hugh's College, Oxford.

From Mr J. W. Arriens

Sir, My MP, Sir Anthony Grant, enquired recently in your columns (April 9) why such disproportionate attention was paid to the political pronouncements of bishops.

The answer, of course, is that bishops are political appointees and help to govern the land in the House of Lords.

More to the point, surely, is that disproportionate attention can be paid to the religious views of our political leaders.

Yours faithfully, J. W. ARRIENS, 3 Middlemoor Road, Whitelands, Cambridgeshire.

Help from the stars

From Mr R. D. Jephcott

Sir, It is probably not generally known that during World War II our war cabinet had access to specialist astrological advice from a German astrologer.

Louis De Wohl fled here from Nazi Germany a few years before the outbreak of war. His particular knowledge was that he knew well Hitler's personal astrologer, and was able, therefore, to tell our Chiefs of Staff what advice Hitler would most likely be receiving.

During the war De Wohl was commissioned and attached to the War Office. He was able to say when and where Hitler was being advised to make his next move. De Wohl died a few years ago. He was an intelligent and charming man and he was anxious to repay Britain for having received him so hospitably.

Yours sincerely, R. D. JEPHCOTT, The Seventh, Meadfoot, Thurlestone, Kingsbridge, Devon, May 23.

From Mr James Pilditch

Sir, At a dinner party in France a lady I'd not met sat beside me. "You're a Leo", she said. "How can you tell?" I asked. "You look like one", she replied. To prove her power, she named the star sign of everyone at the table, although she only knew one of them. She was right in every case. This seems to me a new dimension of astrology, though what use to make of the revelation beats me. Yours faithfully, JAMES PILDITCH, 62 Cadogan Square, SW1, May 23.

Verbal dexterity

From Miss M. O'Donoghue

Sir, Recently, I came across a "Sandwich Boutique" — serving dressed crab, perhaps? Yours etc, M. O'DONOGHUE, 702 Duncan House, Dolphin Square, SW1, May 23.

From Mr John Ashworth-Pearce Sir, A pint of milk delivered to me last week was in a bottle which bore the legend "Doorsstep Fresh".

Can any of your readers answer the question implicit in this slogan?

Precisely how fresh is a doorstep? Yours faithfully, JOHN ASHWORTH-PEARCE, 1 Marden Avenue, Cullercoats, Tyne and Wear, May 22.

Proper place for patients' notes

From Mr M. D. Cameron

Sir, Medical records have traditionally been the responsibility of doctors or their employers, but the transfer of this responsibility to the individual would have many advantages.

The financial saving would be enormous: not only would the employment of armies of clerks in hospitals and general practice no longer be necessary but the costly problem of storage would be overcome. Gone would be very many boring, repetitive, non-productive low-paid jobs.

Medical information would be available immediately as patients would take their records along with them when they visited the doctor. At St Thomas' we have for a number of years given our maternity patients possession of their records and they have treated them very responsibly. Notes have been forgotten or lost only on the rarest occasions.

Confidentiality, almost non-existent at present, would become the responsibility of the individual, who would also possess a full knowledge of his or her own medical condition. All information would be held in a single place, so that one set of notes would provide a continuous record of health and illness throughout life. This would obviate the need for letters passing from GP to hospitals and vice versa.

Many criticisms will be levelled at such a proposal, mostly I suspect from my own profession. Clearly exceptions such as psychiatry and radiotherapy would be necessary, but I suggest that pilot schemes should be established in different parts of the country to test such a system.

Yours faithfully, M. D. CAMERON (Consultant, Obstetrics and Gynaecology), St Thomas' Hospital, SE1, May 17.

ON THIS DAY

MAY 26 1874

This exhibition notice by Tom Taylor was one of three instalments totalling about 7,000 words. Luke Fildes's paintings, which realised £2,100 at Christie's in 1983, now hang in the Royal Holloway College.

EXHIBITION OF THE ROYAL ACADEMY

SECOND NOTICE

We continue our survey of the pictures from the point at which we broke off... Mr Colin Hunter's "With Wind and Tide" (385) — and we might couple with this, from the earlier rooms, the same painter's "Coming Ashore" (109), and "Salmon Stake-net" (209), — Mr J. Nesbitt's "Fife Coast" (410), and Mr Hamilton Macaluso's "Off the Wind" (254), and "Salute Fishing in the Fylde of Bute" (583), all examples of recent Scotch art, eminently true to the scenery and life it deals with, but as hard to distinguish in the different hands that take it up as the work of Messrs Smart, Docherty, and others, who, with Peter Graham at their head, paint Scotch mountain scenery with such similarity of colour, handling, and effect — in particular, with unwary accompaniment of mist clinging to the hillsides — that one gets a little dazed by the repetition...

After... we come to one of the most noteworthy pictures of the year, Mr Fildes's "Applicants for Admission to a Casual Ward" (504), the second work exhibited by the young painter, and in all points an immense advance on his "Boating Party" of last year. The scene is outside the office where the police distribute tickets for the casual ward to the hapless congeries of human woe and strays that drift into such foul corners of this great city. The time is the close of a drizzling winter's day, and a gas lamp struggles with the dying daylight and the damp haze of the miserable hour. A shivering wretch, who has seen better days, is being directed to the ward by a policeman. A wretched young mother, with a baby huddled under her shawl, and another crying with cold as it clings to her skirt, has received her ticket, and is staggering to her lair. Against the wall stand those who have been rejected or whose turn is yet to come: a sodden sot, a ruffian "down on his luck", miserable women huddled in lettered shawls, and more miserable children tipped with cold and hunger, stark and shivering. The mural is pointed by an extract from one of Dickens's letters to Forster describing such a scene. The picture is one of unrelieved squalor and hopeless misery, without even such a gleam as the sickly light of the gas-lamp to help the spectator in his struggle with its gloom. It is late to argue that such a subject is not within the limits of art as now recognized; but we doubt the justification of inflicting such pain through painting, unless there be some suggestion, subject or treatment, of hope, remedy, or repentance. Here we fail to find any of the three.

THE ARTS

TELEVISION

Broadly but well drawn

The cartoonist Bill Tidy's contribution to *Widerworld* (BBC2) was a brisk whirl through his beloved Naples which began, dauntingly enough, with the observation: "By gum, this is a bit different from Sunday dinner in Keworth."

It seems never to occur to this school of documentary making that such differences, being readily appreciable by the viewer, do not require the smothering emphasis of the presenter's voice. Recently screened *tele-jaunts* to Italy have found disavowal on the grounds of sketchiness and banality: Tidy stirred in the extra ingredient of chortling whimsy and somehow pulled it off.

His fittedness for the task lies with his 30-year marriage to a Neapolitan, and in speaking Italian he contrived to charm a succession of real people, from a freelance car-park attendant to a lottery-ticker salesman whose hunch back punters touch for luck. The snap and brio of this alarming city were well caught in these brief encounters, and it was a measure of the presenter's achievement that one's eye had constantly to pick him out of crowd scenes.

After cooking a black pudding in the steaming flank of a volcano, Tidy patronized a seedy market, where he allowed himself to be cornered into paying 300,000 lire for a boxful of cardboard posing as a television set. Another camera showed how the salesman had pulled the old switcheroo round a convenient corner. This was so fascinating, one did not care whether the episode had been set up or not.

Widerworld's second half showed the first wildlife talkie ever to come out of Africa. In 1932 (the same year, incidentally, as Johnny Weissmuller's first essay in loincloths), Martin and Osa Johnson blazed the Denis/Haas trail with a regiment of bearers and such imperishable voice-overs as "Mr Rhino is Public Enemy Number One in Africa". On safari to the then Belgian Congo, Mrs Johnson wound up her Victrola and induced the local pygmies to dance jazz. Monty Python was never finer.

Echoes (Channel 4) was the first episode of a Maere Binychi novel, set in an Irish seaside village in the early Fifties — an idyllic age when a history essay could be rewarded with a guinea and a cigarette with a kiss, and when a plot could run on correspondence monitored by a poisonously nosy postmistress. Geraldine James is quite adequate as a school teacher shielding her renegade priest of a brother from exposure, but the dialogue is woefully expositional and the music appears to have been supplied by Bord Fáilte.

Martin Cropper

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Last of the boulevardiers

Robert Morley is 80 today. Sheridan Morley celebrates his father, the West End



Comic bricks with a straw hat: Robert Morley in *The Little Hut* (1950)

"It can't be easy," they occasionally tell me, "for a drama critic to have an actor for a father," and I try vaguely to look as though it has been in some way difficult. In fact it never has; but then Robert has seldom been anything but the easiest of actors.

Three years before I was born, he had already made his name as the first Oscar Wilde on stage and as Louis XVI in the film that won him an Oscar nomination, *Marie Antoinette*. That was his first film, and very nearly his last.

When it was completed, with a cast also featuring John Barrymore and Norma Shearer, MGM offered my then 30-year-old father *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, but he took the view that, as the title character only ever grunted, it would hardly be worth staying in Los Angeles for another three months. An actor called Charles Laughton got the job, and Robert returned perfectly happily to the London theatre, which was always his real home.

Like his old friends Wilfrid Hyde-White and David Tomlinson, Robert comes of a rare and now almost vanished breed of gentlemen players, men who might have ended up as ambas-

sadors, or running extremely distinguished hotels, but who somehow got themselves into showbusiness on the strict understanding that they were only ever to offer paying customers extensions of their offstage selves.

Unlike Olivier or Guinness, they were never to be masters of disguise; unlike Redgrave or Gielgud, they were never to be classical Shakespearians (though, unlike Robert himself, I still rather regret his rejection of a Stratford Falstaff for Peter Hall); and unlike Mills or Attenborough, they were never to be Pinewood-Military, though much of their best work was to be done on screen in character roles.

Instead, Robert's generation had the last of the West End wine: they were the last great Shaftesbury Avenue players for whom audiences would regularly turn out regardless of play or theatre or director or script, but simply to watch people they would like to have had dinner with being more or less themselves on stage.

Robert's heroes and first tutors were in fact classical giants, Tyrone Guthrie and Bernard Shaw, but his models were men such as Charles Hawtrey and Gerald du Maurier, who made themselves

into the footlights equivalents of great hosts or very good chefs. The wonder of his career was that, starting from no real advantages either financial or physical, he invented himself as an actor who symbolized and sustained a theatre of pure amusement.

Directors who used Robert regularly, directors like Guthrie and John Huston (for whom he made *The African Queen* and *Beat the Devil*), always knew how good he could be. But the remarkable thing about a career that has now spanned almost 60 years, and as many plays and films, is the way that it was almost all conjured out of thin air.

Robert has only very seldom worked with scripts that anyone else ever managed to bring to life: certainly there was some early Shaw at the Old Vic and, much later on, one Ayckbourn and one Ben Travers, but almost all of his were in plays that he either wrote himself or adapted from the boulevards of Paris, and most of those he would rebuild on stage night after night.

Seldom can so many theatrical bricks have been made with so little straw: the 90-year-old Joyce

Carey, who was in one of his last West End comedies, told me that on the closing night she looked at the script they had started rehearsing two years earlier and realized that hardly a line of it was still being spoken on stage.

The reason that nobody ever revives *The Little Hut* or *Hugo* or *Dancing or A Ghost on Tiptoe* (all of which Robert wrote or co-wrote or adapted, and each of which he took to well over 1,000 West End performances) is that without him they are simply unplayable.

We have moved now into an era of directors' and writers' and designers' theatre, but I think it may be just possible that the actors' theatre of Robert's time in the West End actually ensured a lighter and brighter and starker Shaftesbury Avenue. Not that he has ever really given it up: he may have abandoned the live theatre, but this octogenarian year he can be found on screen in *Little Dorrit*, and on television in the upcoming sequel to *Winds of War*.

Now that he has made it to 80, I only hope he goes for the full century: a lifelong racing and gambling man, he continues to be the good luck of all of us who have ever really known him.

Delicate lustre of golden oldies

CINEMA

The Whales of August (U)
Curzon Mayfair

Planes, Trains and Automobiles (15)
Plaza

Appointment with Death (PG)
Cannon Haymarket

Siesta (18)
Chelsea

A Tiger's Tale (15)
Cannon Panton Street

These days the youth market holds commercial cinema in such an iron grip that the very existence of *The Whales of August* is surprising. The theme is old age and the adjustments it requires: the stars are Lillian Gish and Bette Davis, playing two widowed sisters; there is little obvious drama, though the film stems from a play (by David Berry). There are not even any whales: they only symbolize the march of time (August is when the creatures return to the waters off Maine, where the sisters live).

The film's tension lies in the relationships. Libby (Bette Davis) is blind, independent and "ornery", fiercely proud of her long white tresses. Sarah (Gish) is the active busybody, fussing around the cottage and garden, and tending to her sister's demands: "Yes dear," she keeps saying. Their delicate equilibrium is upset by visitors: by Vincent Price, a professional house guest in need of a house; their neighbour, Ann Sotherton; the local handyman (Harry Carey, jun.), who may or may not build a new window.

This is a quite extraordinary cast, and an extraordinary man — Lindsay Anderson — was put in charge of them. For his first film since *Britannia Hospital*, and his first film shot in America, Anderson has pulled in the horns of bitter satire and anarchy; *The Whales of August* belongs rather more with his theatre work, where Anderson serves as the interpreter of other people's thoughts.

Berry's thoughts, alas, do not amount to much — the symbols are too obvious, the dialogue too manufactured; and despite Anderson's fluid direction, the end result is a touch arid. But the ladies are indomitable: Davis, physically much changed since her stroke, displays all her old inner strength;

while Gish, at least in her wordless moments, summons up the lost eloquence of silent cinema.

Has John Hughes, the teen movie king of American cinema, finally grown up? High-school hi-kinks play no part in *Planes, Trains and Automobiles*, an amusing tale of a disastrous cross-country trip; the leading characters are an uptight advertising executive (Steve Martin) and an uncouth salesman of shower curtain rings (John Candy). The Thanksgiving holiday is two days away, but the route to the family turkey is arduous: flights are cancelled, trains stalled, money is stolen, cars burned and wrecked.

The best of Hughes's films, such as *Pretty in Pink* and *The Breakfast Club*, show a keen regard for characterization; and the best jokes here bounce off the duo's clashing personalities. Martin is



Busybody and her blind sister in the garden: Lillian Gish (left) and Bette Davis in *The Whales of August*

harassed, strait-laced; his contribution to a coach sing-song is "Three Coins in a Fountain" (the passengers stare stony-faced). Candy is lowbrow man incarnate, ever jovial; on the coach, he sings the *Flinstones* TV theme tune, and everyone joins in. If you peer too closely, implausibilities loom up; but Hughes's nose for the indignities of modern travel, and the skill of the players, keep the film racing along.

Agatha Christie; Peter Ustinov as Hercule Poirot; a clutch of stars gently earning their salaries (Lauren Bacall, John Gielgud, Hayley Mills); period exotic; a barrel of red herrings; the formula has worked before. But Cannon's first brush with the Dame, *Appointment with Death*, cannot be counted even a moderate success. There is scarcely any wit for the players to sup on; the stepping-

stones in the mystery — digitalis, syringes, a spilled drink that makes corpses of cockroaches — are signposted so clearly that nothing ever trips us up.

The story concerns a domineering matriarch (Piper Laurie) who swindles her way into her late husband's money. To soothe her family's fury, she organizes a trip to Europe and the Holy Land. "It will clear the air of death," she cries. The itinerary allows the producers to base the film in Israel, and inject a few lines on the need for a Jewish homeland. A subdued Michael Winner directs.

Connoisseurs of disastrous follies should not miss *Siesta* — a would-be erotic jigsaw puzzle of a movie from a novel by Patricia Chaplin. Ellen Barkin puts so much energy into her part, as the amnesiac stuntwoman, who may have committed murder in Spain.

But director Mary Lambert (her first feature after video work) throws everything away for the puny pleasures of being chic, flashy, and obscure. Others involved include Jodie Foster (sporting Sloane Ranger English), Alexei Sayle (sporting tin teeth), and Miles Davis, who wrote the music. Condolences to all.

Twenty years after Ann-Margret's heyday as a sex-kitten, she can still bring male characters to their knees. In *A Tiger's Tale*, the victim is C. Thomas Howell, a 19-year-old just short of college, who receives a sharp lesson in growing up after nurse Ann-Margret (mother of his ex-girlfriend) tends a scratch he received from his pet tiger, Peter Douglas (brother of Michael, son of Kirk) writes and directs with a limp touch.

Geoff Brown

DANCE

Onzia's triumph

Cruel Garden
Sadler's Wells

It is in most respects a stronger cast than the London Festival Ballet puts out in its production of *Cruel Garden* than Ballet Rambert could offer when the work was created 11 years ago. The reception at last night's premiere was enthusiastic, and the company seems to have a hit on its hands.

I cannot pretend that I admire the ballet any more than when it was new: it still seems that Lindsay Kemp's concept of using Lorca's life and work for a pseudo-surrealist's extravaganza, to a monstrous palette of a score by Carlos Miranda, is cheap, tawdry and derivative. Christopher Bruce's choreography struggles bravely to overcome that problem; the performers have to do the rest.

The hero of the evening is Koen Onzia. Memories of Bruce's performance in the central role are hard to efface, but Onzia matches him on equal terms. This role gives no scope for the virtuosity with which he has dazzled in former seasons. Everything is in the characterization and the style, and Onzia meets this challenge with complete success.

As well as the obvious imagery derived from bull ring and flamenco, there are some unexpected aspects to the role. At one point, hidden behind a mask, Onzia plays the bride from Lorca's play, *Blood Wedding*, removing mask, frock and head dress, he goes straight into an Hispanic imitation of Buster Keaton. (The pretext is that Lorca wrote a somewhat bizarre scenario about Keaton bicycling outside Philadelphia).

This sequence of diverse episodes needs an impressive range: macho one minute, full of feminine delicacy the next; now humorous, now suavely elegant, now fighting for life. Onzia does it all well and adds his own strong presence to bind the disparate role. It is a tremendous performance that has the house cheering.

If he matches Bruce, star of the Rambert performances, his colleagues outshine: less daunting comparisons. Martin James brings a burly, threatening presence and an outstanding jump to Lorca's enemy in his various appearances as bull or human adversary. Matz Skoog makes the Moor a slippery, epicure creature, obscenely servile to the Franco figure embodied by Alexander Grant.

The solo blues dancer has undergone a sex change this time, and is impressively played by Brenda Edwards. Trinidad Sevilano impresses in a multiplicity of parts and Vicky Lagos, a Spanish actress, gives a full-blooded singing and speaking account of the café proprietress.

John Percival

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THEATRE

Natural forces

Uncle Vanya
Vaudeville

Astrov remarks in his farewell speech to Yelena: "You and your husband sow destruction wherever you go." He might have added that he wouldn't have missed it for the world.

The fractious couple have descended on the estate, bringing its mind-numbing labour to a stop, and allowing long-buried feelings to rise to the surface. In particular, the effect of Yelena's languor is to accelerate the lives of everyone else.

Michael Frayn, introducing his beautifully judged translation, calls *Uncle Vanya* a play about the problem of surviving when existence has been robbed of hope and meaning. That perfectly sums up everything that happens after Vanya's failed attempt on Serebryakov's life.

Up to that point, though, the action is pushed along by another animating principle. It is not that the characters have hope; but that they get the long-delayed chance to burn up in an ecstasy of self-expression.

One great merit of Michael Blakemore's production is that it brings this into maximum prominence, with central focus on Sonya and her uncle, who nourish powerful antithetical passions. It is Sonya's love for Astrov, and Vanya's hatred of Serebryakov, that supply the main motive force of the events.

Both can be followed through on Blakemore's stage from the moment that Imelda Staunton's Sonya first springs to Astrov's



Underneath the birches: Jonathan Pryce (Astrov), Michael Gambon (Vanya) and Greta Scacchi (Yelena)

defence (at which point he moves away in embarrassment), and Michael Gambon's opening salvo against the academic fraud for whom he has wasted his best years.

In the night scene, Staunton grows to a state of radiant happiness (and this survives even the crushing prohibition at the end). It is enough that she has managed to tell Astrov something of what she feels.

Gambon, meanwhile undergoes a huge transformation once the family taboos are removed. He first comes on like a bleary giant sloth, emitting an inconsequential "yes" after a prolonged stretching routine; but hatred gives him eloquence, which develops like a fire until, in the third act climax he has changed to an enraged lion.

"Twenty five years" he roars with the full force of those tremendous lungs, before making his exit for the gun. He misses, of course; but he has had his say.

On this occasion, it is Vanya's play, Jonathan Pryce's Astrov looks the work-aged doctor, and presents the full contradiction between the ecological pioneer and the vodka-coarsened drudge.

He plays the night scene as an affectionate game, blithely insensitive to her feelings, and casting longing glances at the forbidden wine bottle. But, after the opening conversation with old Marina (Elizabeth Bradley) there is no passage where he exerts the authority to command the central focus. He is a visitor; and one of his best moments comes right at the end, as a chorus, looking at the resumed work routine in Vanya's office through our eyes.

This is a star production, offering graded levels of interest according to the characters' place in the hierarchy. There is no attempt to explore Marina or Vanya's bookish old mother. Jonathan Cecil's Telegin is simply a fan of Serebryakov, laughing at his feeble jokes and carrying his books.

Benjamin Whitrow has some telling moments as the academic invalid — bestowing an automatic kiss on Sonya's hand and then shouting at her for giving him the wrong medicine. Otherwise he appears as an empty husk, masked under formal courtesies. Greta Scacchi's Yelena conveys wastes of boredom with bewitching elegance.

Tanya McCallin's birch-wood settings require longer than usual for the changeovers, which are, unhappily, covered by concertina interludes.

Irving Wardle

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BOOKS

Messy life made art

Philip Howard on the new literary biography of the great Russian novelist, patriot and minor prophet

Set a novelist to catch a novelist. All proper novelists are liars, falsifying the past and transmuting memory into something universal. The difference between a novel and reportage is the difference between a universal fiction and a particular half-truth. As a professional novelist, A.N. Wilson is a good beagle to track one of the greatest novelists who ever wrote down the arches of the years, through the steps of life, mythology, autobiography, propaganda, and first-hand evidence that turns out to be a false.

All memory is a form of fiction. Because Mr Wilson knows the tricks of the trade, he is particularly good at impugning the strands of the novels, which Tolstoy wove out of memory and the past as obsessively as Proust. Literary biography, which helps understand and enjoy the writing rather than the gossip, is a genre that is being written better today than ever. This book is an important addition to the field because it gives a coherent explanation of the chaotic and complex creative processes that forged the novels, sending one back to the texts with fresh eyes. It was an extraordinary career: from upper-class rake and layabout to novelist, to born-again sage, King Lear, and heresiarch, to national resistance icon for the ordinary man (who had never read him). A.N. Wilson can even follow in the footsteps of his subject as a latter-day God-botherer, when he dashes off fogeyish fustianisms for the cheap press. He understands the ignoble urge to pontificate, but recognizes that it has nothing to do with serious writing.

He understands Tolstoy as novelist a great deal better than that most muddle-headed of great "thinkers" knew himself. Tolstoy was a mass of contradictions and obsessions and paradoxes that were the creative grit in the oyster that made the novels. He was a monster of egotism who could get inside the skin of quite alien people and make us instantly recognize a bit of ourselves, i.e. a bit of Tolstoy, there. The old moralizer of universal brotherly love was peculiarly inept at family life, and presided with cunning for 40 years over one of the most notoriously unhappy marriages in

TOLSTOY
By A.N. Wilson
Hamish Hamilton, £16.95

domestic history. He was haunted by religion, but characteristically castigated Christ in his own image. He was obsessed by sex, but did not rate women highly as persons except when he novelized them, and could write in one of his fogeyish leaders: "Copulation is an abomination which can only be thought of without revulsion under the influence of sexual desire. Even in order to have children you wouldn't do this to a woman you love." He is the great Russian writer, but his principal influences were not Russian but French and English, Sterne and Dickens, Rousseau and Proust. As a leader-writer he was a mess; as a novelist he was a genius.

Mr Wilson concentrates on the birth and slow death of Tolstoy the novelist. But the novelist was not somebody whose works are self-contained islands entire to themselves, in the way that Shakespeare's works are. We can get to the heart of Shakespeare without needing to know much about his life. As author he was self-effacing and elusive in the way that the English think is peculiarly English. Tolstoy comes bursting and shouting out of his work and his diaries in a way that the English think is peculiarly Slav. He was a genius whose art grew out of three irreconcilable love-hate relationships: with God, with women, with Russia. The hate was often rather hard to distinguish from the love. With Tolstoy the art grew out of his extraordinarily confused personal and national life. With Shakespeare we do not know, and it does not matter.

What they shared was an over-developed consciousness, a sympathy for all sorts and conditions of men and women, so that by alchemy Pierre, and Andrey, and Natasha, and Anna, and Hamlet, and Falstaff, and Rosalind grow lives of their own, and become part of the consciousness of all who read the books or see the plays. Great artists with words (and paint) see the world and its people with fresh eyes, like those



of Adam on the first day of creation.

A.N. Wilson, who learnt to read Russian for the book, is persuasive when he digs beneath the official version, catching Tolstoy's laudering his childhood and sorting out his past under the influence of books such as *David Copperfield*. Emotion recollected in tranquillity can be a way of making up what happened after the event. As a good novelist, Mr Wilson deploys a powerful manipulative imagination of his own upon his subject. "That this sort of thing was going on in Tolstoy's imagination is hard to doubt," "Nor can Aunt Alexandra

have failed to tell little Lev about the sons of Prince Vladimir, Boris and Gleb." Because he knows and loves the novels so well, Wilson carries us along with the drift of his argument without provoking too many "Oh-how-do-you-know-thats". He is sharp about author's jealousy, which led Tolstoy to declare Shakespeare rubbish, and to omit Dickens when discussing those who had influenced him.

After Tolstoy's nervous breakdown post *Anna Karenina*, the life may seem to decline into bedroom farce of a foolish, fond old man turned prophet, writing self-obsessed twaddle with flickers of the old fire, much wrangling with diaries and copyrights and wills, and the gloomy disciples who as usual got their leader wrong. But

this was when Tolstoy became the Grand Old Man of the Russian resistance. He was the patriarch who declared that things were rotten in the state of Russia, though he was hopeless at saying what should be done. Giving away all one's goods to the poor, pacifism, anarchism, celibacy, and vegetarianism are not practical politics. Harder Russians who knew what must be done were waiting in the wings. Art has nothing to do with politics, except that it can grow out of them. But it lasts longer and is more important in the long run. Tolstoy will be the embodiment of the generous Russian spirit when Lenin and Stalin are recognized as temporary aberrations. One of the things this book does is to show why.

The biker in the rye

FICTION

Chris Pettit

THE MYSTERIES OF PITTSBURGH
By Michael Chabon
Hodder & Stoughton, £11.95
THE SYKAOS PAPERS
By E.P. Thompson
Bloomsbury, £13.95
CULTURE SHOCK
By Valerie Grosvenor Myer
Duckworth, £10.95

Andy Warhol's remark that in the future everyone will be famous for 15 minutes is old-hat already in the American publishing world, as young writers like McInerney, Ellis, and Janowitz have found to their cost: lauded and dispatched with equal alacrity. Michael Chabon, the latest up the chute, wrote *The Mysteries of Pittsburgh* at the age of 23 and was compared to Scott Fitzgerald. The same fascination with class, decadence and shady money, to be sure, but there similarities end; this first novel, for all its cosmopolitan air, is parochial stuff, underplotted and overwritten.

The plot is a doodle for a scenario (indeed it is already being turned into a film): Art Bechstein, in the last summer of his adolescence — "that dizzy summer, that dull, stupid, lovely, dire summer" — has affairs with his namesake, Arthur, and the mildly kooky Phlox, but his main obsession is the drop-out Cleveland, a corpulent biker who collects protection money for one of the minions of Art's gangster father. A vagueness clogs the proceedings until Cleveland gets on his bike, revs up the plot and leaves a hurried skid mark ("A loud rumour of tires") across the last part of the story.

The sensibility is precious and overwrought. One adjective is deemed insufficient when three or more will do. A mug of champagne becomes a "cool, yellow, foaming plastic cup of regret". Such romantic exquisiteness at least distinguishes Chabon from the snapshot and Polaroid styles of his contemporaries. But too much tarted-up description soon becomes enervating: get on with it. Chabon and his Pittsburgh dandies affect a worldliness, and attempt cynicism too, but end up merely whimsical. For all the snappy chapter headings — "The Mau Mau Catalogue", "Searchlights and Giant Women", "The Casa del Fear", etcetera — *The Mysteries of Pittsburgh* is less wised-up than Chabon would like us to believe.

Some years ago a piece of graffiti near the Mall read: "I am the writing on your wall." This came to mind while reading *The Sykaos Papers*, a first novel by historian E.P. Thompson, which warns that we ignore at our peril the question: whether this planet? It also restates the obvious: that when it comes to the future, we choose to be blind.

Thompson's prognosis is, of course, gloomy. He uses satire in

the manner of Swift, especially in style, plain and unadorned by simile or metaphor, the better to show up the lunacies he finds. Thompson's Gulliver is Oi Paz, a near-human alien from the planet Otair, more Houyhnhnm than Yahoo, who is appalled by the inconsistencies and mismanagement he finds on the planet Sykaos. In this Sykotic society such a creature is a liability. "Get me Security!" bellows the PM in perfect imitation of her own Spitting Image, and Oi Paz is consigned to a succession of institutions for observation. Thompson's message is plain. Any policy of containment is doomed to fail, and collision inevitable.

Thompson's skills are not particularly those of a novelist. For all his abilities to dissect and play with language, he has a tin ear for speech, and his talent for caricature is shaky. There are lots more underheads at large in the world than on Sykaos. Nevertheless, Thompson's writing on the wall has a dogged urgency which, as with many unpalatable truths, will probably go ignored.

From Swift to Sterne: Valerie Grosvenor Myer's *Culture Shock* is set in the inhospitable terrain of higher academe, a shabby women's college where stern feminists keep chimpanzees as room-mates (for this is a comedy). Sterne-like diversions include jokes on structuralism, blank pages, and frequent asides to reader and critic. At first the backsliding reviewer is mildly grateful for being told how to describe the book (high campus spoof), and what middlebrow critics might write about it. But a challenge is issued once too often and the author's bluff called: "Go on, I dare you," she writes. "Put me down (in any of the multiple connotations of that phrase)." "Leave me to moulder away unread..." Class dismissed.

NEW HARDBACKS

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books:
Adult Pleasures, by Dan Jacobson (André Deutsch, £12.95) Novelist's stimulating essays on reading, writing, literature, and South Africa.
China, by Arthur Cotterell (John Murray, £14.95) Concise cultural history making manageable the dauntingly huge theme from Zhou to Mao.
Christian Authority, edited by G.R. Evans (Oxford, £35) Theological essays in honour of Henry Chadwick, formerly Regius Professor of Divinity at Oxford, then at Cambridge, now Master of Peterhouse.
Eton Voices, interviewed by Danny Danziger (Viking, £14.95) Forty men + a woman talk about the Old Coll. that made them different (or not).
Gershwin, by Edward Jablonski (Simon & Schuster, £17.50).
Kissing The Rod, edited by Germaine Greer (Virago, £27.50) Anthology of 17th-century verse by 45 women, with many splendid resurrection.
Lines of Dissent, edited by Stephen Howe (Verso, £14.95) Writing from the *New Statesman* 1913-88, for the 75th anniversary of the old warrior.
Oxford and Cambridge, by Christopher Brooke, Roger Highfield, and Wim Swaan (Cambridge, £25) Big illustrated and proper scholarly history.
The Hollywood History of the World, by George MacDonald Fraser (Michael Joseph, £14.95) Epic history through lens of DeMille et al.

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Just wild about Larry

Hugo Vickers

OLIVIER
By Anthony Holden
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £16

Lord Olivier "Lear" majestically from the cover of this 453-page biography. "Is anybody there?" Holden asks. He quotes Joan Plowright saying "Larry? Oh he's acting all the time"; Peter Ustinov wishing that he would "put on a false nose and be himself again"; and Peter Hall describing him as "both a god and a monster", adding "I suspect that God is rather like Olivier."

I feel that Holden has netted old Larry, though it is no easy task since his subject is the master of disguise. In his time Olivier has been able to emerge from a theatre through waiting crowds, having cast off his stage magnetism, and succeeded in being ignored as a chauffeur. Holden portrays Olivier in his many memorable stage roles from his beginnings as a Ronald Colman look-alike to his last weird appearance as a hologram. In between we meet so many varied Oliviers that there is no fear of being bored.

A chengymen's son, whose mother died when he was young, Olivier transformed himself from a roaring sort of peasant boy with no magic into a matinee idol. The chapter on his manipulation of Gielgud should be compulsory reading at Harvard Business School. Gielgud spotted his talent and urged him to join in alternating Romeos, Olivier's first step towards stealing Gielgud's crown. Years later Olivier chose the unthreatening Frank Finlay as his lingo lest history repeat itself.

Diverted from an unsatisfactory first marriage, Olivier learned as



1931 Hollywood publicity still in the moustache and glamour period

much about elegant (if exhausting) high life from Vivien Leigh as she learned about stage technique from him. A highly competitive man, he had less film presence than Vivien and never made another film with her after 1941. His multiple triumph of producing, directing and starring in *Henry V* was followed by a successful run at the Old Vic and on Broadway, after which he had the screen and the stage in his palm. He became king of the castle or rather squire of Notley (another role).

This could well prove to be the definitive life of Olivier, for I do not see the present Lady Olivier releasing papers or copyright, or the key sources co-operating for an

official yet impartial, posthumous Olivier.

But now as Beverly Baxter once wrote of Olivier — we must reach for the cane, not to apply it, but to remind Holden that it is there. I am unfairly well-placed to spot errors in relation to Vivien Leigh, most of which come from his reliance on Anne Edwards's inaccurate biography. However, he could have checked that Marilyn Monroe rented Lord Moore's house (not Lord Norr's — who he?) in Lord Drogheda's memoirs (Weidenfeld 1978), and that Rex Harrison had left Lilli Palmer by 1956, in Noel Coward's *Diaries* (Weidenfeld 1983) — errors unworthy of such an authoritative and enjoyable book.

The nicer sex

Victoria Glendinning

THE WOMEN'S
HISTORY OF THE
WORLD
By Rosalind Miles
Michael Joseph, £12.95

Odo of Cluny, in the 12th century, wrote that "to embrace a woman is to embrace a sack of manure." Given our common humanity, it's hard to see why Odo thought himself less odorous. But then he didn't give us our common humanity. We've come on a bit since then.

Rosalind Miles's title is more ambitious than her book, which is short, journalistic, and not wonderful, but it's a stone on the altar. Her narrative is trimmed with sprightly puns — "quinn pro quo". Her theory is that women have always worked harder, since prehistoric Man the Hunter was bone idle, and the group subsisted chiefly on plant foods gathered by females and brought home in their "swag bags". (If she's right, it must be the race-memory that makes us cling to our handbags.)

Her book seeks to answer two questions: how did men succeed in enforcing the subordination of women, and why did women let them get away with it? The original deity in all cultures was the Great Goddess, just so long as men did not connect intercourse with pregnancy. Once they realized their part in the making of babies, the new phallosocrats displaced the Great Goddess and all the little gods and goddesses and invented the One God, the all-powerful Father. Eve did not fall, she was pushed.

The achievement of patriarchy was to exclude women by divine warrant from everything that counts — politics, philosophy, economics, priesthood. Most women were debased from serious education and experience of life, so naturally remained ignorant, infantile, and easy to control.

The conventional riposte to yowls of protest, even today, is to

cite the "complementary" nature of women in relation to men. You only have to inspect this to see the insult in it. The prestigious functions, the interesting strengths and virtues were allotted to men; they had all the fun. Women were left with the repetitive tasks of domestic life, "wife-work", and sexual servicing. Some women do these things brilliantly and like doing them. That's just women's good characters. You can get some satisfaction out of doing anything well, whether it's leading a regiment or cleaning out the fridge.

Not all women want to lead regiments. A weakness of this book is that in its insistence on women's exclusion from the hierarchy of male power, it underplays women's anarchic alternative value systems. But if we did make a fuss, we got labelled "strident" and "unfeminine". The frightful threat there was that men would not like us, or love us — worst of all, they would not marry us. This mattered, before economic and sexual independence were open to us.

But today's married woman is likely still to be either the overloaded worker/wife/mother with her double burden, or the underoccupied housewife/drone with her half-life of deprivation and despair. Men are still getting away with it. Why do we let them? Are most women simply nicer and can't bring themselves to hurt a fellow-human's feelings by telling him he is a sack of manure?

Juvenile Muses of Oz down under

CHILDREN

Brian Alderson

DROMKEEN
A Journey into Children's
Literature
By Jeffrey Prentice and
Bettina Bird
The Bodley Head, £14.95

inal art-work, mostly by Australian illustrators.

The book *Dromkeen* is a glossy introduction to the whole boiling. In a text that winds its way through myriad pictures (portraits, views, illustrations) the authors manage both to demonstrate the range and attractions of the collection, and to summarise briskly the history and the current boom-time of Australian children's book publishing. Activity prevails — among adults "doing research", and children, who come to see something of the creative background to the books they enjoy, or to be entertained by itinerant artists and storytellers. That's a nice balance, and it has evoked national and international admiration.

● *History of Australia*, by Manning Clark et al. (Lutterworth, £10.95). Manning Clark's huge history has been humanely rendered down by Meredith Hooper to make a readable narrative for children. The air of informality is much enhanced by Susanne Ferrier's handsome illustrations and distinctly jolly endpapers.

● *Stories From Our Home*, by Richard Tulloch, illus. Julie Vivas (Cambridge, £5.95). Australia's busy picture-book industry is prone to overlook. Here though, four briefly comic domestic incidents are recounted in strong, rhythmic prose, with spiky illustrations to match.

● *Rattling in the Wind*, Australian poems for children, selected by Jill Heylen & Celia Jollert, illus. Maire Smith (Cambridge, £9.95). Swaying gently rather than rattling, Clean decorative illustrations and verse this is always competent but lacks the sort of energy you'd expect from a 4-X nation.

● *Hating Alison Ashley*, by Robin Klein (Viking, Keatell, £5.95). Robin Klein is Australia's more than adequate answer to Judy Blume, girls' school story genre, funnier and more satisfying than Aunt Judy's schematic works.

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This selective guide to entertainment and events throughout Britain appears from Monday to Friday, followed in the Saturday section by a preview of the week ahead. Items for inclusion should be sent to The Times Information Service, PO Box 7, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XN

BOOKING KEY
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THEATRE
LONDON

★ **ARISTOCRATS:** New Brian Friel play set within a crumbling family in Donegal. Lovely cast led by Sinead Cusack and Niall Buggy. Hampstead Theatre, Avenue Road NW3 (01-721 5001). Tube: Swiss Cottage. Preview from tonight, 8pm. Opens June 2, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Sat 4.30pm, £5-14.50.

★ **THE COMMON PURSUIT:** Simon Gray play traces the fortunes of underdog friends; splendid cast led by Rik Mayall, John Sessions, Stephen Fry, John Gorton, Simon Pegg. Phoenix Theatre, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (01-836 2294). Tube: Tottenham Court Road. Mon-Thurs 8-10.15pm, Fri and Sat 8.45-1.15pm, mats Fri and Sat 8.15pm, £5-14.50.

★ **THE DEEP BLUE SEA:** Penelope Keith as Fenella's doomed wife in love with an RAF pilot. Theatre Royal, Haymarket SW1 (01-930 8832). Tube: Piccadilly Circus. Opens tonight, 7.30pm, then Mon-Sat 7.30-10pm, mats Wed 5.30pm, £4-14.50.

★ **THE FIFTEEN STRINGS:** Shipbuilder's daughter falls in love with George in stage version of Catherine Cookson's favourite novel. Playhouse, Northumberland Avenue, WC2 (01-839 4401). Tube: Embankment. Mon-Sat 7.30-10.15pm, £5-14.50.

★ **THE FOREIGNER:** Patchy comedy. Nicholas Lyndhurst as a timid tourist in the US struck dumb with nerves. Albany Theatre, St Martin's Lane WC2 (01-836 9878). Tube: Leicester Square. Mon-Sat 8-10.30pm, mats Thurs and Sat 3-5.30pm, £5-13.50.

★ **GREENLAND:** Final play in Howard Brenton's "Utopia" trilogy, set in 1997 and seven hundred years hence. Royal Court, Smeaton Square SW1 (01-730 1748). Tube: Strand. Preview from tonight, 8pm. Opens June 1, 8pm, then Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Sat 4pm, £4-12.

★ **HARGOOD:** Puzzling new Tom Stoppard play. Spies, physics and misunderstandings; with Nigel Hawthorne, Roger Rees, Felicity Kendal and Ian Gledhill. Aldwych Theatre, Aldwych WC2 (01-836 6404). Tube: Covent Garden. Mon-Fri 7.30-10.30pm, Sat 8-11pm, mats Wed 2.30-5.30pm and Sat 4-7pm, £5-14.50.

★ **JOURNEY'S END:** Jason Curney and Nicky Katt play a Shakespeare classic tale of World War One heroism. Whitehall Theatre, Whitehall SW1 (01-930 7765). Mon-Sat 7.45pm, £5-10-13.

★ **ONE WAY PENDULUM:** Jonathan Miller's production of N F Simpson's absurdist comedy: strong cast of human actors and tangle of complex, weighing machines rehearsing "Hallelujah Chorus". Old Vic Theatre, Waterloo Road SE1 (01-928 7618). Tube: Waterloo. Mon-Fri 7.30pm, Sat 7.45pm, mats Wed 2.30pm, and Sat 4pm, £4-12.

★ **SOFIA:** Madeline Bellamy in dramatization of the diaries of Mrs Felicity, neurotic wife or passionate victim. New End Theatre, 27 New End, NW3 (01-794 0022). Tube: Hampstead. Tues-Sun, 8pm, £5-10-13.

★ **STARS IN THE MORNING SKY:** First visit to the West by the Maly Theatre of Leningrad, bringing a play about

prostitutes exiled from Moscow during the 1980 Olympics. A sensation in Russia. Riverside Studios, Crisp Road, W6 (01-748 3354). Tube: Hammersmith. Mon-Sat 8.15pm, £5.

LONG RUNNERS: ★ *Beyond Reasonable Doubt:* Queen's Theatre (01-734 1186). ★ *The Business of Murder:* Mayfair Theatre (01-823 3038). ★ *Cats:* New London Theatre (01-405 0072, cc 01-404 4079). ★ *Follies:* Shaftesbury Theatre (01-379 5399). ★ *42nd Street:* Drury Lane Theatre (01-836 1089). ★ *Kiss Me Kate:* Savoy Theatre (01-836 8888). ★ *Les Liaisons Dangereuses:* Ambassadors Theatre (01-836 8111). ★ *Me and My Girl:* Lyric Theatre (01-840 7913/4). ★ *Les Misérables:* Palace Theatre (01-434 0809). ★ *The Muppet Show:* St Martin's Theatre (01-836 1443). ★ *Phantom of the Opera:* Her Majesty's Theatre (01-839 2244). ★ *Run For Your Wife:* Comedy Theatre (01-830 3216). ★ *Starlight Express:* Apollo Victoria (01-828 8865). ★ *And Then There Were None:* Duke of York's Theatre (01-836 5122).

OUT OF TOWN

BIRMINGHAM: ★ *Hamlet:* Derek Jacobi's production for Renaissance Theatre, with Kenneth Branagh as the prince. Repertory Theatre Studio, Broad Street (021 236 4455). Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mat Sat 3pm, £5.30-£8.50.

FILMS

★ **Also on national release**
★ **Advance booking possible**
IVAN'S CHILDHOOD (PG): Andrei Tarkovsky's first film, made in 1962, about a 12-year-old caught up in World War Two (85 mins).
Renoir (01-537 8402). Progs 1.50, 4.05, 6.20, 8.35.

★ **NUTS (18):** High Society where Claudia Draper kills a client in self-defence. Is she sane enough to stand trial? With Sandra Bernhard and Richard Dreyfuss (116 mins).
★ *Warner West End* (01-439 0791). Progs 1.00, 3.30, 6.00, 8.30.

★ **THE PRINCESS BRIDE (PG):** William Goldman's send-up fairy-tale, filmed with his daughter, set in a medieval world. With Cary Elwes as the hero out to rescue his beautiful princess (Robin Wright) (98 mins).
Cannon Baywater (01-229 4149). Prog 2.15.

★ **THREE MEN AND A CRIB (PG):** British Hollywood remake of a timely French success. Tom Selleck, Ted Danson and Steve Guttenberg play confirmed bachelors suddenly thrust into the problems of baby-sitting. Leonard Nimoy directs. (103 mins).
Cannon Chelsea (01-352 5096). Progs 2.00, 4.20, 6.45, 8.15, 10.40.

★ **TRAVELLING NORTH (15):** Strong adaptation of David Williamson's play about a cantankerous old man facing retirement and declining health in Queensland (97 mins).
Cannon Fulham Road (01-370 2636). Progs 2.00, 4.20, 6.45, 8.15, 10.40.

★ **TRAVELLING SOUTH (15):** Strong adaptation of David Williamson's play about a cantankerous old man facing retirement and declining health in Queensland (97 mins).
Cannon Fulham Road (01-370 2636). Progs 2.00, 4.20, 6.45, 8.15, 10.40.

★ **TRAVELLING WEST (15):** Strong adaptation of David Williamson's play about a cantankerous old man facing retirement and declining health in Queensland (97 mins).
Cannon Fulham Road (01-370 2636). Progs 2.00, 4.20, 6.45, 8.15, 10.40.

CONCERTS
LUNCHTIME

★ **SILENCE TREATED:** Krysta Rosalind performs *A Treatise on Silence*, Eight Portraits by Virgil Thomson, Ford's *Like a Cat*, Wolpe's *Second Piece for Solo Violin* and Bruzwick's *Epigrams*.
University Theatre, Liverpool (061 709 6022, ext 2788). 1-2pm, £1, £2.

★ **DANCING AT NIGHT:** As yet another contribution to the "Theme, with Variations" series Kent Nagano conducts the LSO in Tchaikovsky's *Nocturne*, Prokofiev's *Symphony No 2*, and with Gidon Kremer as soloist, Schnittke's *Violin Concerto No 4*.
Barbican Centre, Silk St, London EC2 (01-836 8891). 7.45-9.45pm, £3.50-£13.50.

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Let a thousand umbrellas bloom

Christo, a 53-year-old, Bulgarian-born artist, would like to plant thousands of blue and yellow umbrellas in valleys outside Tokyo and Los Angeles in autumn 1992. For three weeks only the umbrellas, each 20 feet high and 25 feet across, will meander across 12 miles in Japan and 16 miles in California and, according to Christo, are conceived to "reflect the similarities and differences in the ways of life in the two valleys". The project's enormous cost, as with all this artist's varied exploits, will be financed by sales of drawings, models and collages (see above). Christo sees his art as much in conducting the tricky preliminary negotiations with landowners and authorities, and the collaboration with armies of

engineers and workers, as in the finished installation itself. In his last temporary monumental scheme, completed in 1984 following years of consultation, he wrapped up the *East Gate* in orange plastic. Previous works included covering miles of pathways in Kansas City and erecting a high white fence across two counties near San Francisco. But what does it all mean? Mostly, it means an extraordinary intelligence of what, first and foremost, is a materialistic world, often with surreal and beautiful results. Preparatory works for Christo's *Umbrellas Project* are at Annely Juda Fine Art, 11 Tottenham Mews (01-637 5517), Monday to Friday, 10-6pm, Saturday 10-1pm, free, until June 24.

David Lee

★ **KEATS KUNQUAT:** Vincent Shaw, a pianist, gives the UK premiere of Ford's *Kunquat* for John Knap, surrounded by more familiar items such as Lumsden's *Rune*, *Sanctus*, *Taverner's Psalm*, *Turkmen's Entranced* and Stockhausen's *Klavierstück IV*.
University Theatre, Liverpool (01-709 6022, ext 2788). 8pm, £1, £2.

★ **POSTHUMOUS COMPOSING:** See caption.

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★ **PEGASUS PIECES:** Richard Thompson and the Pogues ensemble in Bach's *Lute* and Heron and Josquin's *Lament on the Death of Ockeghem*.
Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SW1 (01-829 3191, cc 01-828 8800). 8pm, £2.

★ **ASKENAZY/LUPU:** The RPO is conducted by Vladimir Ashkenazy in Brahms's *Triple Concerto* and Symphony No 4 while Radu Lupu solos in Beethoven's *Piano Concerto No 3*.
Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, London SW1 (01-829 3191, cc 01-828 8800). 7.30-9.30pm, £4-22.

★ **CLARK TRACEY QUINTET:** An octet of jazz musicians, another released Superones suite, another hazy serving of hard pop.
The Stereo Club, Drummonds, 73, Fleet Street, London EC4 (01-837 4566) doors open 8pm, £4.

★ **HOUSHOUS FLOWERS:** With "Don't Go Stealing Up the Chart, the album is beginning to fulfil some of their tremendous potential.
Newcastle University SU, Kings Walk (081 232 8402) 8.30pm, £3.

★ **ASWAD:** The reggae veterans' stock remains high as series of "Give A Little Love" follow in the footsteps of "Don't Turn Around".
Sheffield City Hall, Bakers Pool (0742 732595) 7.30pm, £8.50-£7.50.

★ **RED MOON:** Jorma Uotinen's dance drama given by the Helsinki Dance Theatre for the Brighton Festival.
Gardner City, Falmer, Brighton (0273 674557) 7.45-9.45pm, £3-5.

★ **THE ENTERTAINMENT AUSS DEM SERIAL:** David Rendell is back in the Glyndebourne's strongly cast revival, conducted by Lohar Zagros.
Glyndebourne, East Sussex (0273 541111). 5.40-8.40pm, returns only.

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★ **ASWAD:**

TELEVISION AND RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear and Penny Osborn

Minister against random testing

BBC1

- 6.00 **Coffee AM**. 6.35 **Edgar Kennedy in What For** (b/w). 6.55 **Weather**.
- 7.00 **Breakfast Time** with Sally Jones and Jeremy Paxman. Includes national and international news at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30; regional news and travel reports at 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; and weather at 7.25, 7.55 and 8.25.
- 8.55 **Regional news and weather**. 9.00 **News and weather** followed by **The Pink Panther Show**. Cartoons (r). 9.20 **Kilroy** Robert Kilroy-Silk, in Margate, chairs a discussion on Britain's seaside resorts.
- 10.00 **News and weather** followed by **Four Square**. Quiz show (r). 10.25 **Children's BBC**. Andy Crane with programme news and birthday greetings followed by **Play School** (r) and **Paddlington** (r). 10.55 **Robbie** with a reading.
- 11.00 **News and weather** followed by **Cook with Clara**. Soups, starters and side dishes. 11.20 **Widescreen World**. Highlights of last summer's Farnborough Championship held on the south coast of England (first shown on BBC2).
- 12.00 **News and weather** followed by **Bodymatters**. Doctors Graeme Garden, Alan Maynard and Richard Briers investigate why we fall ill, with the assistance of Samantha Fox (r). (Coefax).
- 12.30 **Wildlife on One**. David Attenborough looks at the various stages of a butterfly's life (r). (Coefax). 12.55 **Regional news and weather**.
- 1.00 **One O'Clock News** with Philip Hargrave. Weather 1.30. **What happens when a supply of water is cut off?** 1.15 **The story of the sinking of the Mary Rose**, in July 1545 1.35 **The consequences of teenage sex** 1.55 **The cost of industrial and agricultural development in Southern Italy** 12.25 **A young man who needs crutches to walk** leaves his special school for maths teachers of 11- to 16-year olds.
- 1.20 **King Rollo** (r). 1.25 **What's Inside?** (r). 1.30 **Missile Time** (r). 1.35 **News and weather** followed by **Watch**. Louise Hall Taylor and Tony Neilson discover how animals adapt to life in the wild.
- 2.15 **Primeval** Bel Thora Bird celebrates the 250th anniversary of John Wesley's conversion (r). (Coefax).
- 2.50 **Class of '81**. A film, a dance/drama based on a poem performed by students of High Storm School, Sheffield (r).
- 3.00 **News and weather** followed by **The Chelsea Flower Show** (r).
- 3.50 **News**, regional news and weather.
- 4.00 **Dr Kildare**. Part three of the medical drama series and Kildare is accused of unprofessional conduct. Starring Richard Chamberlain (r).
- 4.20 **On the Box**. The second of Glyn Worsnip's series of chat shows. This afternoon's guest is avid bird-watcher and former Goodie, Bill Oddie (first shown on BBC Midlands).
- 4.50 **Northern Lights**. A portrait of Harrogate and its Royal Baths (r).
- 5.00 **The Alternative Holiday Show**. Caving in the Yorkshire Dales and mountain biking in the Peak District are two of the alternative holidays inspected by John Thirwell and Kathy Taylor.
- 5.30 **Film 95 Special** (r).
- 2.40 **Come Dancing**. The second semi-final - Home Counties South against Midlands and West (r).
- 3.25 **Gardeners' Direct Line** presented by John Thirwell. To contribute ring Leeds (0532) 446222 between 11.30am and 2.30pm.
- 3.50 **Classic Vision** (r). 4.10 **The Blackbirds** (r). 4.30 **Coppers and Col** starring David Copperfield.
- 5.00 **Newsround** 5.05 **Blue Peter**. (Coefax). 5.25 **Neighbours** (r).
- 6.00 **Six O'Clock News** with Sue Lawley and Nicholas Witchell. Weather 6.30 **London Plus**.
- 7.00 **Top of the Pops** presented by Mark Goodier and Steve Wright.
- 7.30 **Eastenders**. Chris Smith and Harry Jameson open their road to the business; Dot asks Charlie Cotton to visit her; and Darren returns after a mystery absence. (Coefax).
- 8.00 **Tomorrow's World**. Anna Walker reports from the Isle of Man on Britain's first sea-viewed farm; and Howard Stablesford is in Somerset where local cider is being transformed into a form of Calvados.
- 8.30 **Mastermind**. The fourth semi-final. The specialist subjects are David Garrick; Edward, Prince of Wales until the Abdication; Shakespeare's comedies; and opera and musical comedy since 1858.
- 9.00 **News O'Clock News** with Sue Lawley and Nicholas Witchell. Regional news and weather.
- 9.30 **The Lenny Henry Show**. The special guest is Celine Lloyd (r). (Coefax).
- 10.00 **Question Time**. Sir Robin Day's guests are journalist Sarah Hogg and Mr's Eric Hoffer, David Meller and Charles Kennedy.
- 11.00 **John Denver**. The second part of a concert recorded by the singer/ songwriter at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham (r).
- 11.50 **Weather**.

BBC2

- 6.55 **Open University: Pictures of Politics**. Ends at 7.20.
- 9.00 **Coffee AM**.
- 9.30 **Daytime on Two: A-level Biology - Genetics** 9.52 **Tracing the history of an area through studying the local countryside** 10.12 **Coffee AM** 10.30 **How pupils of Robinson's End Middle School use a computer spreadsheet** 10.45 **Coffee AM** 11.00 **What happens when a supply of water is cut off?** 11.15 **The story of the sinking of the Mary Rose**, in July 1545 11.35 **The consequences of teenage sex** 11.55 **The cost of industrial and agricultural development in Southern Italy** 12.25 **A young man who needs crutches to walk** leaves his special school for maths teachers of 11- to 16-year olds.
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- 5.30 **Film 95 Special** (r).
- 6.00 **Film: The World of Abbott and Costello** (1955, b/w). A compilation of clips from 18 of the comedy team's films.
- 7.15 **Carillon Town**. *Pas de Deux*.
- 7.30 **News Scottish Art**. This third of four film profiles on Scottish artists focuses on Colin Colvin who combines painting, sculpture and photography in his trompe-l'oeil works.
- 7.50 **Macb 3**. David Macb and his sculpture in the car park of BBC TV Centre.
- 8.00 **Top Gear**. This last of the present series includes Chris Gifford investigating what can be done to reduce accidents involving horses and drivers; William Woollard at the 50th anniversary celebrations of the Prescott Hill Climb in Gloucestershire; and Sue Baker road testing the new hatchback Rover - the 800 Fastback.
- 8.30 **Nature**. Michael Buerk returns to Fibborough 14 years after Britain's biggest chemical disaster to find out how safe is the chemical industry; and sponsorship of the environment - who gains most?
- 9.00 **Many Breasts**. Another selection of sketches featuring the comedy impressionist.
- 9.30 **40 Minutes: Catch a Fallen Star**. John Plummer with the story of Jessie Matthews (r).
- 10.10 **Five Sculptors**. Richard Wentworth whose work includes sculptures made with light bulbs, baskets, ladders and mirrors and other artefacts he usually buys in junk shops near his Caledonian Road, London, home.
- 10.30 **Newsnight**.
- 11.15 **Taking Art Apart**. Sandy Nairne asks if art schools can still offer students the freedom to pursue their own vision. With him discussing the subject are artists Terry Atkinson and Patrick Heron, art historian Griselda Pollock and Jocelyn Stevens, rector of the Royal College of Art.
- 11.50 **Open University: Weekend Outlook** 11.55 **Maths: Are You Being Served?** Ends at 12.25am.

ITV/LONDON

- 6.00 **TV-am** begins with **The Morning Programme** presented by Richard Kaye; 7.00 **Good Morning Britain**. After Nine's guests include Claire Rayer.
- 9.25 **News**.
- 9.30 **Cross Wit**. World game 10.00 **Santa Barbara** 10.35 **News** headlines.
- 10.30 **The Place**. John Huxley chairs a discussion on a topical subject 11.10 **Puddle Lane**. Children's puppet series (r). 11.25 **News** headlines.
- 11.30 **Cross Wit**. On the first of a new series on various aspects of cruelty Colin Morris talks to Tamsin Rose who was aged 15 when raped at knife-point 12.00 **The Krypton Factor** (r).
- 12.30 **The Saturday Show**.
- 1.00 **News at One** with Julia Somerville 1.20 **Thames news**.
- 1.30 **Falcon Crest**. Drama serial starring Jane Wyman as the matriarch of a California producing dynasty 2.25 **Home Cookery Club**. Custard Tart Surprise.
- 2.30 **Our Yesterdays**. Bernard Braden looks at 1953 film clips in the company of Sir Lou Sherman 3.00 **Take the High Road**. The minister makes a difficult call on a request of his congregation 3.25 **Thames** news headlines 3.30 **Sons and Daughters**. Australian family drama serial.
- 4.00 **Portrait Bill** (r). 4.10 **The Telebugs** (r). 4.20 **Em's World**.
- 4.45 **A Class of Their Own**. Two 16-year-old girls from a secure home for problem youngsters in Birmingham join 37 other girl trainees learning to sail the *Sir Winston Churchill* schooner in the North Sea.
- 5.15 **Winner Takes All**. Quiz game introduced by Geoffrey Wheeler.
- 5.45 **News with Fiona Armstrong**.
- 6.25 **Help with Telecom** 88 news.
- 6.30 **Emmerdale Farm**. Stephen Fuller and Sandy become friends.
- 7.00 **Love Me, Love Me Not**. A game which highlights how little men and women know about each other.
- 7.30 **Aut Widescreen**. Part 2 of a comedy story about a group of Goedic brothers working in West Germany (r). (Oracle).
- 8.00 **Lingo**. Game show combining language and bingo.
- 8.30 **The War of the Worlds**. A clandestinely-filmed report from the Soviet Union on the effect of Mr Gorbachev's policy of glasnost. The reporters are Lorraine Haggessy and Anne Burns.
- 9.00 **L. A. Law**. Drama series set in the offices of a high-powered Los Angeles law firm.
- 10.00 **News at Six** with Alastair Burnet and Sandy Gall 10.30 **Thames news**.
- 10.35 **The City Programme** includes items on the Houtwater row and why the Treasury is confusing the construction industry.
- 11.05 **01 for London**. Peter Ustinov talks about his new film *Appointment with Death*. Gracie Slocchi and Jonathan Pryce discuss their roles in *Uncle Vanya*. Plus music from Melvyn Frank and Al Farika Tour.
- 11.35 **Prisoner**. Block H. Drama serial set in an Australian women's prison.
- 12.30 **News at One**. Viewers' emotional problems discussed by experts.
- 1.00 **The Cars - Live**. Highlights from the group's 1984-5 tour of the United States.
- 2.00 **News headlines** followed by *Film: Jagged Lives* (1979) starring Joe Lewis, Christopher Lee and Ronald Planchet. Special agents versus crime boss thriller. Directed by Ernest Pintoff.
- 4.00 **News headlines** followed by *Too Close for Comfort*. Comedy series.
- 4.30 **America's Top Ten** (r).
- 5.00 **ITN Morning News**. Ends 6.00.

CHANNEL 4

- 9.30 **Schools: the legends of Saints George, Andrew and Patrick** 9.47 **Crabs and sea shells** 10.04 **Exploring the seashore** 10.23 **The birth of a baby** 10.41 **Hazel Townsend's story** 10.57 **Yor Ward** 11.14 **Stewart's** 11.32 **A visit to Curry Bank Mill** 11.44 **Sidham**.
- 12.00 **Just 4 Fun**. For young children.
- 12.30 **Business Daily**. Financial and business news presented by Susanah Simons.
- 1.00 **Powerbase**. The last programme in an Open College series on electricity (r). (Oracle).
- 1.30 **Toucan**. The second part of an Open College course on one of Britain's fastest growth industries (r). (Oracle).
- 2.00 **The Perfumery Programme** presented by Alastair Stewart. Nicholas Woolley and Jackie Ashley review yesterday's debates and look forward to those scheduled for today.
- 2.30 **Philips** (1947, b/w). (See Choice).
- 4.20 **Trailblazer Magoos**. Cartoon.
- 4.30 **Countdown**. Today's challenge is Leslie Savage, a postman from Harley Street.
- 5.00 **Film: Blackmail** (1929, b/w) starring Joan Barry (with the voice of Joan Barry) and John London. Alfred Hitchcock's first talkie and the film which he makes a cameo appearance. Thriller about a young woman who is blackmailed after killing a man in self-defence when he tries to rape her.
- 6.35 **North to the South**. A British Rail travelogue, made in 1982, celebrating the beauty of the Yorkshire Dales. Narrated by Robert Shaw.
- 7.00 **Channel 4 News** with Peter Sissons and Nicholas Owen.
- 7.30 **Comment** followed by **Weather**.
- 8.00 **Opinions**. The last programme in the series in which individuals put forward a personal viewpoint. This evening arts administrator Peter Sissons gives his opinions on the policies of successive arts councils and voices his concern about the current state of arts funding in Britain.
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- 12.10am **Film: Freestyling** (1944, b/w). (See Choice). Ends at 2.05.



Jonathan Pryce in *Film on Four's Praying Mantis* (C4, 9.30pm)

VARIATIONS

- BBC1** **Wales**. 5.35am-6.00 **News** followed by **News Today** 6.35-7.00 **News** followed by **News Today** 7.00-7.30 **News** followed by **News Today** 7.30-8.00 **News** followed by **News Today** 8.00-8.30 **News** followed by **News Today** 8.30-9.00 **News** followed by **News Today** 9.00-9.30 **News** followed by **News Today** 9.30-10.00 **News** followed by **News Today** 10.00-10.30 **News** followed by **News Today** 10.30-11.00 **News** followed by **News Today** 11.00-11.30 **News** followed by **News Today** 11.30-12.00 **News** followed by **News Today** 12.00-12.30 **News** followed by **News Today** 12.30-1.00 **News** followed by **News Today** 1.00-1.30 **News** followed by **News Today** 1.30-2.00 **News** followed by **News Today** 2.00-2.30 **News** followed by **News Today** 2.30-3.00 **News** followed by **News Today** 3.00-3.30 **News** followed by **News Today** 3.30-4.00 **News** followed by **News Today** 4.00-4.30 **News** followed by **News Today** 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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

£13.6m tag for Isopad as it comes to market

Isopad International, a maker of electric surface heaters which claims second place in the world market for such devices, is coming to the stock market with a price tag of £13.6 million. Barclays de Zoete Wedd is placing 4.83 million shares, or 44.4 per cent of the company, at 125p each, giving a price/earnings ratio of 11.7.

About £1.6 million of new money is being raised by Isopad. The balance of the shares are being sold by existing shareholders, with 20 per cent of the enlarged capital coming from the widows of two founders of the group.

Noble's chief sells shares D&G valued at £11.2m

Mr Michael Howarth, chief executive of Noble and Lund, the specialist engineer and furniture maker, has sold 1 million shares in the company, or about 7.5 per cent, to Belgrave Investment Trust, increasing the trust's holding to 23.4 per cent. Mr Howarth is part of a concert party which includes Belgrave.

ASW oversubscribed

The basis of allocation for the stock market flotation of ASW Holdings, the Welsh steel group that emerged from the Government's Phoenix rationalization programme in 1981, should be announced today. The application list for the offer of shares closed yesterday oversubscribed and SG Warburg, the merchant bank, was making the count.

Demand was not thought to have been exceptionally heavy, with the issue promoted as one for institutional shareholders and the more sophisticated investor. But Warburg said that there had been "a very encouraging take-up" of the offer by the company's 3,000 employees.

Profits jump at Felixstowe UK growth forecast up

Pretax profits at Felixstowe, Britain's largest container port, climbed from £5.5 million to more than £9 million in 1987. Mr Robert Galle, the chairman of the Suffolk port, reported that turnover had risen from £54.2 million to £65.4 million. He said: "Record cargo volumes were a major factor in our increased profits."

Chemist in £3m deal

Lloyds Chemists is buying Beauty Care Drug Stores, which has 33 high street outlets, for £3.35 million in a move which extends its business into the north of England. The acquisition is to be satisfied by the issue of 2.7 million new shares, the majority of which are being placed with institutional shareholders, at 124p each. Beauty Care had sales of £11 million in the year to end-June 1987.

The acquisition brings the number of shops owned by Lloyds to 112. The company is retaining £300,000 out of the consideration until Beauty Care's net assets are confirmed at £1.1 million. Two non-shareholding directors will be paid £65,000 between them in compensation for loss of office.

Currency factors hound Courtaulds

In the eyes of the post-crash market, Courtaulds is doomed before it has even begun. With a cyclical fibres business and a currency-sensitive textiles operation accounting for 51 per cent of operating profits, the bears have plenty of ammunition.

Yet against this background pretax profits grew by 10 per cent last year and earnings per share were 7 per cent higher. This achievement would have seemed impossible had the severity of currency movements been known at the start of the year.

On the translation effect alone, Courtaulds, using a particularly adverse year-end rate, lost £15 million, while the immeasurable transaction effect may have been nearly as big.

The largest downturn on the trading front was in fibres, where Courtelle, the acrylic operation, reported a £25 million profit shortfall.

Admittedly this compared with a previous bumper year but also reflected overcapacity in the European market, a situation exacerbated by strong currencies dampening export activity. The rest of the division did well, reducing the profits decline to £11 million.

Cost reductions in fibres should come through this year and the trading situation may also have bottomed out, particularly if the Italian merger of Enichem and Montedison leads to rationalization.

The progress in textiles, an area affected by currencies, was modest but should be satisfactory this year.

On the positive side, operating profits from the rest of the group grew 28 per cent of which only a few percentage points was due to acquisitions. Coatings and films and packaging were especially

strong, despite the cellophane difficulties.

The programme to get the dividend back in line continues and with cover still a generous 3.4 times, the alignment is not yet complete.

Gearing stands at 25 per cent of ordinary shareholders' funds and the interest cover is around 10 times. So Courtaulds' low share rating will not prevent it from making acquisitions.

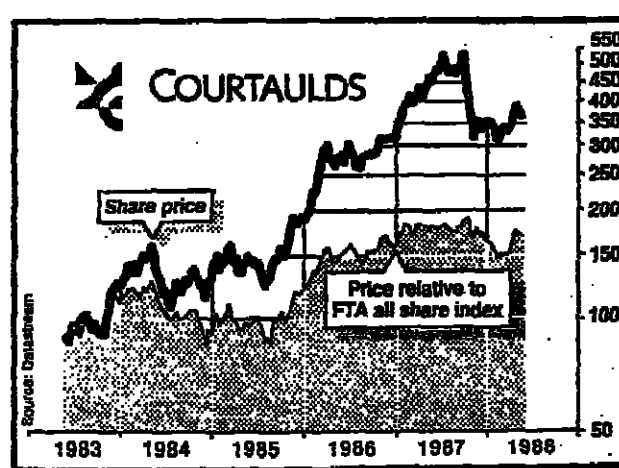
The currency issue remains the biggest uncertainty although within the group this is not a concern that haunts the management. Instead, the drive to make the group more resilient to the vicissitudes of the wide range of markets in which it operates continues.

Sadly, the stock market is not in the mood to give Courtaulds any credit for this, even though on more optimistic forecasts of £245 million pretax, the shares are selling on a p/e ratio of only 7.9 times.

Courtaulds has lived through hard times, and is thus aware of the risks inherent in its business. The management, now comprising one of the youngest executive teams around, is, however, extremely confident. Perhaps the directors and Mr Kerry Packer, with his 3.5 per cent stake, know something the market does not.

Hanson

Hanson only ever does things in hundreds of millions and its latest set of interim results is no exception. Cash at bank and in hand at March 31 stood at £3.03 billion, there is nil net gearing compared with a 60 per cent gearing figure post the Kidde acquisition, interim pretax profits were £356 million against £312 million and there is a handsome 28 per



cent increase in the interim dividend to make Hanson a continued favourite with the income funds.

The interim results were better than the market had expected and the smart increase in the interim dividend signals that there should be a respectable final payment as well. But the share price reaction was only a modest 1p advance, which in itself presents a buying opportunity.

Britain represents 60 per cent of group profit, but the boardroom emphasis after all the recent corporate activity is clearly on the United States, where Hanson, now five months fresh from buying Kidde, has clearly already worked its famous magic touch.

Kidde, bought for \$1.7 billion (£912 million), is now producing more cash and higher returns on capital than a year earlier, which has helped the group's United States arm to show record interim trading profits of £140 million, compared with £83 million, with industrial interests especially strong.

The no-gearing position at March 31 and the continued

strong cash generation within the Hanson empire clearly puts Hanson once again on the starting blocks for more acquisitions. And, doubtless, the disposal programme for which Hanson is also famous is not over yet.

In Britain, the sale of Ross Youngs frozen foods to United Biscuits for £335 million cash largely accounts for the extraordinary income of a net £211 million.

In the United States, footwear margins remained under pressure in a competitive market, but there was an "excellent" contribution from Kaiser Cement.

The group's food companies reported only modestly higher profits, while the tobacco interests through Imperial Tobacco managed an improved return on capital - helped by last September's price increase and the rationalization and reorganization of tobacco interests.

Hanson figures undoubtedly please and the group looks comfortably set for year-end profits of at least £825 million (£741 million), to put the shares at 131½p, up 1p, on a prospective rating of 8.5 and

a yield of a solid 6 per cent. Ahead of the next deal, Hanson looks somewhat undervalued.

Saatchi & Saatchi

Saatchi & Saatchi's ambition may be about to catch up with its balance sheet. As is normal practice in the industry, the group writes off its goodwill on acquisitions against its reserves. But three large acquisitions in 1986, Ted Bates Worldwide, Dancer-Fitzgerald-Sample, and Backer & Spielvogel, meant that Saatchi had to apply to the courts for permission to make its share premium account available for goodwill write-offs.

Total goodwill written off in that year amounted to £402 million. However, the share premium account was rather less than this. The legacy on the September 1987 balance sheet is that shareholders' funds have shrunk to £40 million, comprising share capital of £115 million, revenue reserves of £85 million, and a negative goodwill "reserve" - effectively goodwill yet to be written off - of £160 million.

Just six months into this financial year, acquisitions amount to £60 million and goodwill write-offs to more than £50 million.

But Saatchi is still on the acquisition trail. Not only does it plan to fill out the geographical gaps in its advertising business, it is also aiming to build up its consulting side to equal that of advertising.

At the interim stage, the group's turnover was £1.9 billion and its pretax profit

£63 million, of which consulting contributed just 22 per cent and 16 per cent respectively. But to expand into high margin businesses it will need both to invest and to make significant acquisitions.

Which brings us back to the balance sheet.

For the full year to September 1988, Saatchi & Saatchi is likely to report a 9 per cent rise in pretax profits to about £135 million, resulting in a transfer to reserves of around £50 million. It only needs another £50 million of goodwill write-offs in the second half to report negative shareholders' funds this year.

While not unprecedented, this is a most unusual state of affairs for a publicly quoted company.

Its borrowing capability is undiminished because it can borrow against its balance sheet restated on US accounting principles. In the US, it amortizes its goodwill over 40 years, as a result of which US GAAP earnings are 24p a share, half the British reported earnings. This is important, because Saatchi appears to have run down its £200 million of cash balances to near zero at the half-year stage and is likely to be a net borrower by the end of the financial year.

It looks like a perfect case of having your cake and eating it - high British earnings and a strong US balance sheet. Saatchi could amortize its goodwill in the British accounts. By effectively halving the earnings, this would have the effect of doubling the p/e ratio from eight to 16 times earnings, a rating which looks high enough for a company whose earnings growth has slowed dramatically.

NTT tops profit league

From David Watts, Tokyo

Nippon Telegraph & Telephone (NTT) has become Japan's most profitable company with pretax profits of ¥496.74 billion (£2.14 billion) for the year to March. With its profits up by 38.8 per cent, the company topped even Nomura Securities' ¥493.70 billion for the year to last September.

The telecommunication group's unconsolidated sales were up by 5.8 per cent at ¥5.662 billion and net profits

¥243.24 billion.

The profits surge was mainly due to increased income from telephone charges, active domestic demand, capital investment, public works expenditure and sales of telephone cards despite a 10 per cent cut in long-distance rates.

NTT, however, predicts that sales will fall to ¥5.524 billion during the current year with net profits of ¥236 billion because of increased competition.

Profits double at expanding Audio Fidelity

Audio Fidelity, the maker of loudspeakers for the professional market where Mr Stephen Goldberg and Mr Iain Burton, two entrepreneurs, took control last year, has announced more-than-doubled pretax profits for the six months - to end-December, from £178,000 last time to £380,000.

The company is funding three acquisitions with a £1.8 million placing of new shares at 114p, subject to clawback.

It is buying two gift products suppliers, Troilbourne for a maximum of £2 million, and the Lion Division, which is being sold by British & Commonwealth Holdings for £346,000.

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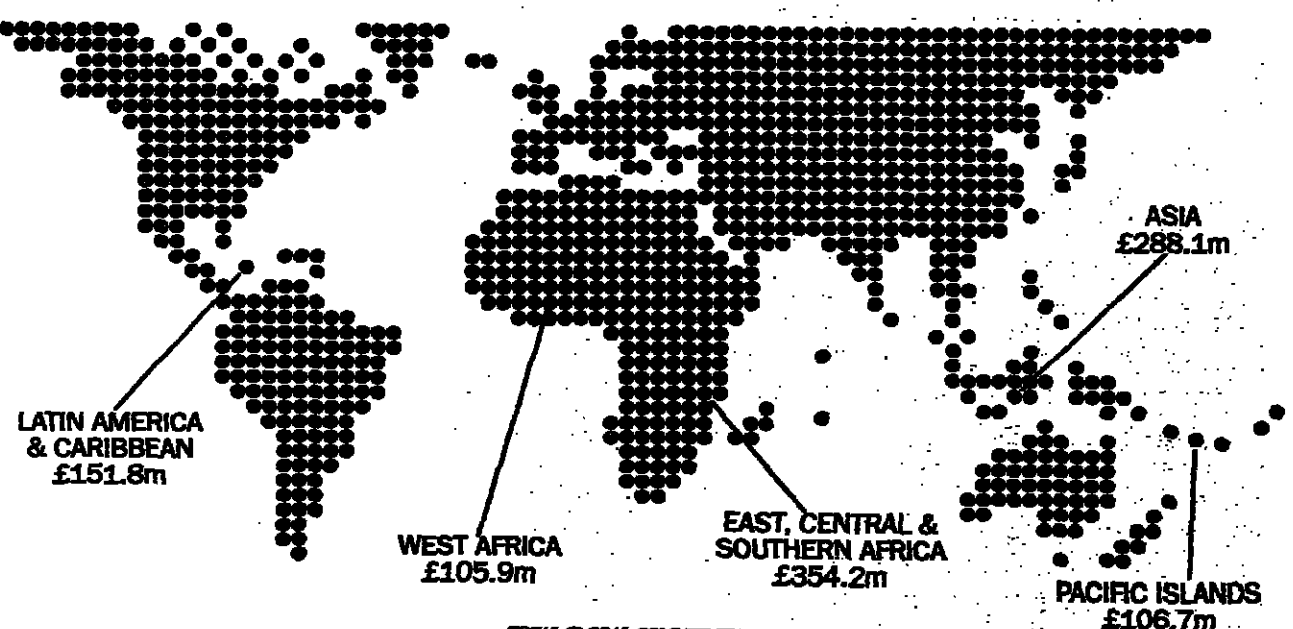
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Thames Television tunes into profits of £27.8m

By Carol Ferguson

Thames Television, Britain's biggest ITV contractor, made significant productivity gains last year, allowing pretax profits to rise 12.3 per cent to £27.8 million.

The company made 30 per cent more hours of programmes, and transmitted 50 per cent more hours of television without increasing staffing levels. Sir Ian Trethowan, the chairman, said: "Thames has had another good year - not as spectacular as the previous two - but we have extended our programming, cut unit costs, increased our profits and raised the dividend."

Thames began transmitting programmes around the clock in September, and was the first broadcaster in Britain to transmit programmes on a permanent basis throughout the night.

Mr Derek Hunt, the group finance director, said further productivity gains were being negotiated. "We are in discussion with the staff and the unions on a whole raft of changes in working practices, and we believe that if we achieve all of that, we should be able to shed up to 200 jobs out of a total of 2,000 staff jobs in Thames," he said.

However, he was unable to quantify exactly how much the redundancies would cost the station, saying that if significant jobs were shed, the costs and benefits would



Productivity gains: Richard Dunn, managing director (left) and Sir Ian Trethowan, chairman of Thames Television, yesterday (Photographer Denzil McNeelance)

amount to a "few million". He said the total package would be complex because there would be natural wastage and some might take early retirement.

He was also imprecise as to when the payback might occur, as this depended on the total cost. However, he expected the benefits to start in the year to March 1990.

Thames subscribed £5.55 million to Société Européenne des Satellites, the Luxembourg

company which will operate the Astra satellite to be launched this year. Mr Hunt said a further cash call was expected this year to give a total investment of about £7.5 million.

"If both the rocket and the satellite work, we expect Astra to be operative at the beginning of 1989," he said. One company, Scansat, had signed a lease for two of Astra's 16 transponders, and obvious candidates for Astra would be

programme services using low-power satellites such as Sky Channel, Super Channel and the Children's Channel, he said.

Thames declared a final dividend of 8.8p a share, making 13.2p net for the year, a 10 per cent rise on last time. Group turnover rose 11 per cent to £247 million last year and earnings per share rose 10.8 per cent to 36.8p. The present financial year had started well.

Speyhawk profits take off

Speyhawk, the property development group, has more than doubled profits before tax - up from £3.4 million to £7.6 million - in the half year to March 31.

The interim dividend rises from 2.52p to 3p. Turnover was £22.9 million, although this excludes Speyhawk's share of turnover from joint venture projects which was a further £30.7 million. Turnover in the corresponding half last year was £39.3 million.

Earnings per share are 18.7p compared with last year's 11.4p. The shares rose 7p to 372p.

Success for Prowling offer

The offer for sale of shares in Prowling, the housebuilder, was nearly 20 times oversubscribed. This is more than twice the oversubscription level seen on any new issue since Black Monday.

Details of the ballot for shares will be announced soon and dealings are expected to start on June 2. Prowling is raising £19.1 million of new money and will be valued at £104 million at the offer price of 165p.

BAA stake

BAA, the former British Airports Authority, says it now owns or has acceptance of representing 50.9 per cent of Lynton Property & Reversionary for which it made a £20 million recommended offer.

Third Mile up

Third Mile Investment is lifting its final dividend from 2p to 2.05p, making 3.3p against 3p last time. Pretax profit for 1987 was £384,000 against £334,000.

Payout lifted

British Boreco Petroleum is raising its final dividend to 16p, making 23.5p against 22.5p for the year to end-March, despite a dip in pretax profits from £2.31 million to £2.07 million.

Property deals

Priest Mariani Holdings, the property company, has agreed to buy an office block in Leicester Square, London for £14.5 million cash. It is selling a property in Shaftesbury Avenue for £1.8 million cash.

Income slips

Jersey General Investment Trust is paying a final dividend of 10.5p a share, making 17.25p for the year ended last April, against 16p previously. Pretax income slipped from £1.98 million to £1.90 million.

COMMENT David Brewerton

Dixon's last chance to secure brand loyalty

Kenneth Dixon has one last, faint chance of saving Rowntree for the good people of York.

The chairman of Rowntree has not, up until now, made much of a fist of defending the company. He was put on notice more than a year ago that the predators were gathering, but failed to play the game which might have kept his company out of danger. He made no mega-takeovers nor organized any poison pills. He could have put himself alongside a partner, but chose not to. Instead, he kept his head down, running the business. He continued to build up the group's strength in Europe, even in the face of a nil profit return now because of the profits to come in the future.

Now he has to stand or fall by those decisions, and all the indications are that he will fall. Rowntree is worth more to a group seeking to increase its share of the world confectionery market than to portfolio investors. Somehow, Mr Dixon and his team of advisers need to reverse the values, or at the very least bring them into line.

Assets are worth what they earn, or can earn in the future. At present, the assets of Rowntree - not so much the factories and chocolate machines as the trade marks and brand names - are valued by investors only on the basis of what they earn now, rather than their long-term potential. Nestlé and Suchard, and any other bidders waiting in the wings, are viewing the potential.

That means Rowntree cannot win a takeover battle on the basis of current

earnings, but has to get across to those precious few institutional investors who have remained loyal, that their best interests, their most profitable interests, lie in keeping faith in Rowntree.

In other words, if Rowntree is to win the battle, it has to fight on grounds of assets rather than earnings. As the takeover battle moves from the lobbies of Westminster to the green screens of the City, Rowntree is putting the finishing touches to its defence document. The defence will address the bid on the table, and will concentrate on saying that Rowntree would be better off staying independent.

That is not the point. What is at issue is whether the present management can crystallize the value within the trade marks and make it worth more than 890p a share. It is difficult to value intangible assets, but it is foolhardy not even to attempt it. Mr Dixon has to realize that for Rowntree shareholders, life could hardly be sweeter. Nestlé has 890p on the table. Suchard is talking about 940p. And they mean it too. Suchard has lined up the required cash with its bankers in Switzerland, while Nestlé already has cash in the bank. The market is banking on a battle between the two, and not discounting the arrival of a third.

The question is, what is Rowntree worth? If the triumvirate of bankers, brokers and boardroom cannot answer that, then the best Mr Dixon and his advisers can do is simply negotiate the best deal from the highest bidder.

CBI fears rise in power cost

By Derek Harris

The Confederation of British Industry is worried that the privatization of electricity will lead to dearer power for consumers.

In a discussion document on the Government's privatization plans, the CBI says that the inclusion of the nuclear power programme within Big G, the larger of two suggested generating companies which would replace the Central Electricity Generating Board, would lead to higher costs as a whole.

Some industrialists feared it could lead to a "damaging fudge" to mask the true costs of nuclear generation, said Mr John Banham, the CBI's director-general.

He added: "The CBI considers that the option of nuclear generation of electricity must be kept open for strategic reasons. But the size of the 'insurance premium' that the nuclear option represents must be clear."

He continued: "Many of our members are not yet satisfied that there will be sufficient new entrants into generation to reduce costs overall."

The CBI's document is going out to member companies and organizations, particularly those which are heavy electricity users such as steel, chemicals and paper. Later, representations will be made to the Government.

The CBI wants large companies to be able to strike deals with power stations direct and for new generating companies to enter the market freely.

Outhwaite hits back at underwriting criticisms

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

Mr Richard Outhwaite, whose Lloyd's of London underwriting syndicates face claims of £260 million, yesterday hit back at the criticisms of a report by Freshfields, the solicitor, criticizing his underwriting performance.

While praising the report for its thoroughness, Mr Outhwaite said the conclusions - the only part of the report so far made public - included the criticisms but not the qualifications.

The published conclusions suggest, for example, that the underwriter had not thoroughly investigated the nature of the risks he was taking on. But the main body of the report said that even a thorough investigation could not have predicted the full impact of asbestos claims made after the policies had been underwritten.

Freshfields was commissioned by Lloyd's members

agents to investigate whether reinsurance policies underwritten by the Outhwaite syndicates in 1981-82 had been taken on without sufficiently assessing the risk involved.

Mr Outhwaite insisted the report was wrong in accusing him of taking on excessive risk. He said the assumption of risk was part of an underwriter's job. He added that the report attempted to rewrite Lloyd's underwriting rules when it claimed that he had overstepped his permitted underwriting limits by a large amount. The breach of limits was negligible, he said.

He is taking legal action against the Lloyd's syndicates whose policies he reinsured, claiming they misled him about the risks involved. "I was given figures and led to believe they contained a proper estimate of the likely level of risk," he said.

Although there would have

been some loss involved even if he had known the truth, they would have been smaller because the reinsurance contracts would have been differently structured, Mr Outhwaite said.

He added that there were some Lloyd's syndicates with similar reinsurance contracts which now claimed to have no record of the risks they had taken on in the 1950s and 1960s.

He said the names involved in his syndicates would not be required to put up further funds to cover losses for at least a year, and possibly two years. They have already been asked to pay more than £30 million.

Mr Outhwaite insisted that his syndicates were not in trouble. They had the resources to cover the losses and were backed by more names now than in 1982 when the losses occurred.

Australia cuts company tax

By Richard Battley and David Smith

Mr Paul Keating, the Australian Treasurer, yesterday announced a surprise cut in the company tax rate from 49 to 39 per cent, in his economic statement or "mini-budget".

The cut in company taxation, although partly offset by less generous depreciation allowances, a tax on gold producers and a reduction in tariffs protecting Australian industry from foreign competition, looks set for a favourable reception in the stock market.

Mr Paul Morgan, of Ord

Minnett, the broker, said: "The international investor is going to look more favourably at Australian equity investments after this package." Before yesterday's statement, the All-Ordinaries index closed 21 points up at 1,490.

Earlier this week, Mr John Elliott, the chairman of Elders IXL, said that Australia was one of the worst countries in the world in which to invest because of high tax and interest rates.

But yesterday, the package was welcomed by business-

men. Mr Larry Adler, the chairman of FAI Insurance, described it as "imaginative and progressive". Mr John Spalvins, head of the Adelaide Steamship group, said the announcement was good "if you believe Mr Keating's promises".

Apart from the company tax reduction, the centrepiece of the mini-budget was the setting of a budget surplus of at least Aus\$3 billion (£1.26 billion) for the financial year which commences in July.

CU policy has designs on Lloyd's

The dissatisfaction at Lloyd's, London's renowned insurance market, apparently runs much deeper than just the design and layout of its infamous new building. The system there can at times be so inefficient that commercial insurance brokers have been known to queue to see specific lead underwriters for several days. Recognizing an opportunity when it is staring them in the face, Commercial Union, one of Britain's biggest composite insurance companies is, I hear, about to set up in opposition. And to rub salt into the wound, its rival 11,000 sq ft underwriting floor will be directly across the road from the Line Street monolith. Its opening tomorrow - it will be heralded by the band of the Royal Artillery Company marching up and down along Under-shaft and while CU says that only 20 per cent of its business has hitherto been in direct competition with Lloyd's, it admits that figure will rise to 30 per cent or 40 per cent with this new venture. "Our advantage is that we will have no queues," says Barry West, head of CU's London market. "A broker representing a corporate client will find 30 specialist underwriters all on one floor, able to offer a package deal for as many different types of insurance as he needs in one go. It is aimed at business which has traditionally been the domain of Lloyd's."

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Streets paved with gold

The gold guru at Consolidated Gold Fields, George Milling Stanley, travelled to 55 cities and 35 countries to compile the annual gold review - the "bible" of the gold world, published yesterday - and in the call of duty he has had to endure many strange customs along the way. He once ate sheep eyes in the Middle East.

Ill-informed

Acting on the Government's advice, Stuart Milne, marketing director of Canning, a Kensington-based company which offers courses in management and communication skills, was astonished when his request to the European Commission in London for 100 copies of its booklet,

Europe: Developing an active company approach to the European market in 1992, was rebuffed because the information unit apparently had none in stock. The foreword by Lord Cockfield, for those whose requests received similar treatment, apparently stresses that "we have a serious issue of considerable urgency. The time to act is now." Perhaps the information unit should read it.

Gripping stuff

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development apparently runs its own bestsellers list. And top of last year's league table were such gripping titles as *Trends of Change in Telecommunications Policy*, *Harmonization of Accounting Standards: Achievements and Prospects*, *China's Special Economic Zones and OECD Leading Indicators and Business Cycles in Member Countries, 1960-1985*. Jeffrey Archer had better watch out.



... does Lord Young prefer milk or plain?

Ahead of their time

If you complain about the uncivilized working hours imposed upon you by the post-Big Bang City, spare a thought for financial services employees in Los Angeles, where an entire generation of brokers and bankers have been reared on New York time. To accommodate Wall Street, it means waking up at 3am, lunching at 9am, taking a drink after work at 2pm and going to bed at 8pm - often before the children. LA, which is fast becoming the second financial capital of the US, is caught between two time zones - both East and West. But those LA residents on New York time seem to enjoy it. "Both my wife and I stay on New York time," says Frank Baxter, a stockbroker with Jefferies and Co. He arrives at his office daily at 3am and by 5am, an hour-and-a-half before the New York Stock Exchange opens, he has read four newspapers and is presiding over the company's morning tele-conference meeting with its New York officers in Manhattan. Another office manager, Gordon McDonnell, is regularly put to bed by his daughters aged seven and 10.

© The bidding is on to better Colovoll's deal allowing Crowther's directors to keep their Mercedes and Volvos for £1. PRO Tony Lyons is offering £3 a piece while Amanda Shipman of Schroders - adviser to Thomas Robinson - has upped it to £5 for the Mercedes alone.

Carol Leonard

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SKF

Interim statement

SKF Group sales during the three-month period ended March 31, 1988 increased 5 percent from 4,900 million Swedish kronor (SEK) to SEK 5,155 m. Income after financial income and expense amounted to SEK 254 m for the same period, practically unchanged, compared with SEK 253 m in the preceding year.

	Jan-March 87	Jan-March 88
Sales (MSEK)	4,900	5,155
Income after financial income and expense (MSEK)	253	254
Income per share (SEK)	6.00	5.90
Capital expenditure (MSEK)	196	211
Number of employees at work	43,699	42,546

Demand for the Group's main product, rolling bearings, continues to rise. The growth rate remains at the same level as in the preceding year but fluctuates from one market to another. The industry's overcapacity continued to depress prices. The North-American market is an exception.

Rolling bearing sales increased from SEK 4,185 m to SEK 4,307 m, whereas income declined from SEK 179 m to SEK 162 m.

Sales of cutting tools increased nearly 9 percent to SEK 288 m. With the exception of West Germany, most markets reported a favourable trend. Income improved from SEK 25 m to SEK 33 m.

Sales of SKF Component Systems increased during the period nearly 20

percent to SEK 701 m. At the same time income rose from SEK 40 m to SEK 47 m. Trends were favourable, primarily in the British, Italian and North-American markets.

Capital expenditures for the three months were SEK 211 m (196) and included current measures to improve productivity and the two plant projects in Brazil and India.

Group operating income, after depreciation, according to plan, amounted to SEK 283 m (285). Net financial expense, including financial exchange rate differences and the translation adjustments resulting from the MNM-method, amounted to SEK 29 m (32). This monetary-nonmonetary method is considered to best provide adjustments for inflationary effects. Income per share amounted to 5.90 SEK.

Aktiebolaget SKF, S-415 50 Göteborg, Sweden.

WPP buys Dutch advertising firm

By Martin Waller

WPP Group, the fast-expanding advertising and marketing services group where Mr Martin Sorrell is chief executive, is paying a maximum of Dfl 135 million (£37.9 million) for PPGH Groep, a Dutch business, in a move which will make it one of the two largest agencies in that country.

WPP already employs 45 people in The Netherlands through the Amsterdam office of JWT, the large American agency it took over last year. The acquisition will be merged with its existing operations to bring another 110 people on to the payroll.

PPGH reckons to be the biggest pure advertising firm in The Netherlands, with billings of Dfl 174 million in a market which is worth approximately Dfl 7 billion and is the tenth largest in the world. The agency's pretax profits for the year to end-December were Dfl 9.9 million.

WPP is paying Dfl 60 million cash on completion, with another Dfl 75 million maximum, in a cash and shares mix split roughly half and half, due in 1993 depending on future profits.



Going Dutch: Martin Sorrell, chief executive of WPP

State aid 'is a minefield' for 1992

By Our Financial Correspondent

Several sectors of the British economy run a high risk of being swamped by subsidized imports, unless differences in state support for businesses are removed before the single European market comes into being in 1992.

The problem of guaranteeing uniformity of treatment in a frontierless EEC market threatens to become a "real live minefield," for British companies, Trade Indemnity, Britain's leading credit insurance underwriter says, in its latest quarterly review.

It regrets that the EEC Commission appears reluctant to tackle the problem of

state help to companies.

In contrast with its campaign to harmonize VAT community-wide, Brussels appears to have spent relatively little time on levies and subsidies on corporate activity, Trade Indemnity says, even though such measures have far greater influence over company profits than VAT.

Business failure rate still slowing

By Colin Narborough

Nearly 13 per cent fewer businesses failed in the first quarter of this year compared with the same period last year. But the latest figures show that the rate of decline is slowing as the one-off impact of new insolvency legislation starts to wear off, according to Trade Indemnity, the credit insurance underwriters.

Some sectors even saw an increase in insolvencies in the first quarter, says TI in its latest quarterly review.

The annual insolvency total ended last year almost 30 per cent lower than in 1986, after a fall of only 11 per cent the previous year. TI attributes the 1987 decrease to a combination of rapid economic growth and the introduction of new insolvency laws at the end of 1986.

But the continued fall in insolvencies, albeit at a slower rate, does not apply evenly to all sectors. In the first three months of this year, services registered a modest increase in insolvencies, while haulage and printing failures doubled.

On the brighter side, failures in food, textiles and furniture were down by more than a quarter overall, although some sub-sectors, such as hosiery and knitwear, saw significant increases. Construction, chemicals and engineering also posted falls.

● The Export Credit Guarantees Department has guaranteed a \$26.8 million (£14.3 million) loan to finance a 100 megawatt power station planned at Chongqing in China by John Brown Engineering, the Trafigura House subsidiary.

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings May 16 Last Dealings May 27 Last Declaration August 11 For Settlement August 23
Call options were taken out on the 25/5/88 (London Properties, Consolidated Media, Inco, Trans Holdings, Sound Diffusion, Black Leisure, Cadbury-Schweppes, Glaxo, Lloyds, Highland Distillers, Watford Glass, Dine Corporation).

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

Series	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alld Lym (425)	390	45	55	65	5	9	13	27	37	40	100	107	177	100	2	25	40	100	107	177	100	2	25	40
Banc (505)	850	12	30	40	52	57	67	77	87	97	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Bat Av (145)	140	9	15	21	8	18	13	27	37	40	100	107	177	100	2	25	40	100	107	177	100	2	25	40
Bat Com (250)	280	9	20	23	18	25	28	37	47	57	67	77	87	97	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Bat Clm (185)	170	8	10	12	17	19	22	37	47	57	67	77	87	97	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
BP (280)	240	28	35	45	13	19	27	37	47	57	67	77	87	97	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Brit (500)	280	9	20	23	18	25	28	37	47	57	67	77	87	97	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Cash Gold (1025)	500	145	185	210	12	40	63	77	87	97	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Centrad (344)	300	45	55	65	5	9	13	27	37	40	100	107	177	100	2	25	40	100	107	177	100	2	25	40
Cash Union (309)	300	45	55	65	5	9	13	27	37	40	100	107	177	100	2	25	40	100	107	177	100	2	25	40
C & W (350)	300	45	55	65	5	9	13	27	37	40	100	107	177	100	2	25	40	100	107	177	100	2	25	40
DEC (149)	140	10	14	18	3	8	10	13	17	27	37	40	100	107	177	100	2	25	40	100	107	177	100	100
GRM (321)	300	45	55	65	5	9	13	27	37	40	100	107	177	100	2	25	40	100	107	177	100	2	25	40
Grand Mar (301)	500	145	185	210	12	40	63	77	87	97	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
IC (255)	500	145	185	210	12	40	63	77	87	97	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Jaguar (258)	300	45	55	65	5	9	13	27	37	40	100	107	177	100	2	25	40	100	107	177	100	2	25	40
Land Sec (255)	500	145	185	210	12	40	63	77	87	97	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
M & S (178)	180	22	35	45	13	19	27	37	47	57	67	77	87	97	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
N-Force (153)	100	25	7	12	21	22	27	37	47	57	67	77	87	97	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
STC (249)	240	20	27	34	8	13	17	27	37	47	57	67	77	87	97	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Submarine (218)	280	9	20	23	18	25	28	37	47	57	67	77	87	97	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Shell (1052)	1000	65	82	110	18	37	48	57	67	77	87	97	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Starline (258)	280	9	20	23	18	25	28	37	47	57	67	77	87	97	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Tobacco (258)	300	45	55	65	5	9	13	27	37	40	100	107	177	100	2	25	40	100	107	177	100	2	25	40
TSA (197)	100	25	7	12	21	22	27	37	47	57	67	77	87	97	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Unimark (289)	120	6	2	5	5	26	37	47	57	67	77	87	97	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Woodworth (288)	280	9	20	23	18	25	28	37	47	57	67	77	87	97	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Series Jan Sep Dec																								

May 25 1988

PARLIAMENT: ROWNTREE

Gould calls for urgent debate on Rowntree

There was so much uncertainty in Government's policy on competition that there should be an urgent debate on the subject, Mr Bryan Gould, chief Opposition spokesman on trade and industry, said after Lord Young's decision not to refer the Rowntree takeover had been repeated in the Commons.

After Mr Kenneth Clarke, Minister of Trade and Industry, had given the decision, Mr Gould said: Is this not a betrayal of British industry?

Is it not a grave blow to the workforce of Rowntree, to the local communities, and to all MPs on both sides who understand the importance of Rowntree to their local economies?

It is unfortunate that an opportunity has been missed, by this decision, to take account of those views in proper fashion, and of the national interest. The Nestlé decision will be taken exclusively by the institutional shareholders according to their own narrow interests.

This is one of the few major British companies with headquarters outside the South-east. They will lose that regional character if they are absorbed into a Swiss multinational.

Reciprocity with the Swiss should have been taken into account. What consideration had been given to a prohibition order under section 13 of the Industry Act, 1975?

Given the similar threats to similar British companies and the confused state of Government competition policy and the implications of 1992 and the internal market, can we have a debate on these important issues as soon as possible?

Mr Clarke: I do not believe that there is any uncertainty about our policy. We have a clear competition policy, which covers these matters, and we issued a blue paper setting out our policy on monopolies and mergers, which was not seriously challenged by anybody at the time.

We have to keep this country competitive in markets which are becoming ever more global in products.

We are faced with an extremely unpleasant populism, which is not thought out but based on short-term lobbies and fear of foreigners coming in.

I realize the importance of Rowntree to all MPs where there are manufacturing bases and it is not for me to anticipate what rival management will say, but I doubt whether anybody will buy it to run down the manufacturing capacity in this country. It is up to the owners to keep them cost-effective and to decide where they operate in future.

He said that Nestlé had been well established in Britain for 100 years. It employed 10,000 people, more than it did in Switzerland.

The Government had looked at the question of reciprocity. A Swiss minister would not have the legal powers that a British minister had to intervene to block a merger, using the powers Mr Gould referred to.

Their companies had a share structure that made it difficult for a takeover to take place, as did some British companies, such as Trust House Forte and Great Universal Stores.

"We believe that it is right that the issue should be decided by the shareholders and our approach to outward and inward investment is in the best interest of the continued growth of the British economy."

Mr Conrad Gregory (York, C) said that Mr Clarke was causing the regional assassination of part of the manufacturing base of the North.

What protection would any UK company have after this decision against cash-rich Swiss companies that were themselves protected against rival takeovers in Switzerland? Could he name any EEC company that had succeeded in a hostile bid in Switzerland? Where had the Government taken into account the employment aspects of the

decision, because Rowntree was one of only six remaining companies in the North which had its international headquarters there? The House demanded answers.

Mr Clarke said that Mr Gregory was wrong to consider the bid a threat to the manufacturing base in the North. He could not understand why anyone should make a bid for the company and then propose to close it down. That would be quite pointless.

Plaguet had recently been acquired by Carier, which, despite its name, was a British-owned company. The UK was a major overseas predator. UK investment overseas far exceeded bids by German, French and other companies and this was a good thing — particularly in the run up to 1992. Cadbury-Schweppes had bought Chocolat Poulain and Rowntree had bought Candor Martell.

Mr Malcolm Bruce, SLD spokesman on trade and industry, said that the Swiss company could sit behind the barricade of the Alps and pick Britain's ripe cherries. After this statement the Government had no credible competition policy, no anti-monopoly policy and no effective regional policy. Was it reasonable to expect shareholders to protect jobs and regional headquarters in the North? Would they not take the money and run?

Mr Clarke said that he was amazed that the Liberals — the great Europeans — should retreat into talk of the Swiss sitting behind the Alps.

If anyone started to bid for anyone else in the chocolate world either at home or abroad, the Government would take the advice of the Director General of Fair Trading.

Sir Giles Shaw (Pudsey, C) said that the only gain the Government had achieved was a reputation for offering the maximum encouragement to foreigners so that by 1992 it would be a question of "all gazumpers welcome".

Mr Clark said that Britain was a major overseas investor. The Government had to look at the effect on the market and the consumer of free competition.

Mr George Foulkes (Carrick, Dumfries and Galloway, Lab) asked what guarantees there would be for Rowntree employees that their jobs would be protected?

Mr Clark said that members were talking about companies as if they were national companies because their headquarters were here, but shareholders were becoming more international.

Mr Michael Grylls (North West Surrey, C) said that six firms in the EEC controlled 70 per cent of the EEC confectionery market, but even that degree of competition would be lowered by the proposed takeover.

Mr Clark said that if the single market in 1992 was going to lead to a concentration of ownership, measures would have to be taken to make sure the European economy was protected. The Government was anxious to see that, in Europe, agreements should be based broadly on the United Kingdom principle of free investment in the market.

Mr John Maples (Leisham West, C) asked if he could change the tone a bit by saying how welcome the decision was — (loud cheers and laughter) — particularly in view of the chauvinistic whinging they had heard, coming as it did from people who until a few weeks ago had not realized that "Nestlé" was not a British company.

Mr Clarke agreed. It would be interesting to see how many MPs in the tea room boycotted Branston Pickle.

Sir Hector Mearns (Dumfries, C) asked Mr Clarke to give some encouragement to MPs. Nestlé had taken over one of the largest factories in his constituency a year or two ago since when everything had gone from strength to strength. "The future may be much brighter than they expect."

Young defends his decision

Lord Young of Gifford, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, strongly defended in the House of Lords his decision not to refer Nestlé's bid for Rowntree, the York-based confectionery giant, to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC).

He said that he suspected that, even if he had, the commission would have found no grounds for blocking it.

His announcement was criticized by many peers, including two with links with Rowntree who expressed fears for the future of the company and the workforce.

Lord Young's statement read: This morning I announced my decision not to refer to the MMC Nestlé's bid for Rowntree, or Sochard's 29.9 per cent holding. This decision was in accordance with the advice of the Director General of Fair Trading. It is now for the Rowntree's shareholders to decide whether to accept Nestlé's bid.

My policy is that in deciding whether to refer a merger to the MMC, the main consideration is the effect of the merger on competition. Neither of these proposals raise competition issues which justify a reference. Nestlé and Sochard have only 3 per cent and 2 per cent, respectively, of the UK chocolate market.

I also concluded, after considering the director general's advice, that there were no employment, reciprocity

or other public-interest issues which justified a reference.

The UK has benefited greatly from both inward and outward investment. I believe that open markets are the best means of encouraging efficiency and generating wealth and jobs. This applies to capital markets as well as to markets for goods and services.

The success of the UK economy is the best evidence of the effectiveness of our policies on competition and investment. My decision is consistent with those policies, and is in the best interests of our continued economic prosperity.

Lord Williams of Elvel, chief Opposition trade and industry spokesman in the Lords, Lord Young must realize that we find his decision profoundly unsatisfactory. He must be aware it will be deeply resented by all concerned with Rowntree, management and workforce alike, and the City of York and the whole of the North of England.

It will send quite the wrong signal in the run-up to 1992: that our companies are sitting ducks because of the freedom of our financial markets while companies in other countries were protected.

He said that big British companies were now open to be taken over by foreign predators because the City of London preferred to take its money and run. The decision was a kick in the teeth for the whole of British industry and, as such, would be disastrous for Britain in the long-term.



Lord Young: 'For Rowntree shareholders to decide'



Lord Jenkins: Britain might be open to predatory bids

Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, leader of the SLD peers, said that as the EEC countries moved towards 1992, Britain might be peculiarly open to predatory bids. Was the only criterion for a reference to the MMC a company's market share?

Lord Young said that Britain had taken a lead in ensuring that it had an open system and that artificial barriers were not set up.

"Wherever we look, we find that a third empire has almost started in terms of overseas British investment."

The weapon of reciprocity must be used only where it actually existed. Britain should not employ the shield of chauvinism and had more over-

reason to refer it to the MMC.

Lord Moran (Ind) said that his wife was a Rowntree and her father had built up the company and had originated many of the brands, such as Black Magic, Kit Kat and Aero. Would it not be more in the national interest to encourage a merger at this stage between Rowntree and the confectionery side of Cadbury-Schweppes?

Lord Young said that it was not in his power to make such judgements.

Lord Stoddart of Swindon (Lab) asked if it would be possible for a British company to take over a Swiss company in a similar fashion.

Lord Young said that there was no law in Switzerland to give the Swiss Government the power to say whether a bid could or could not be made by a foreign company. However, it was true that Swiss companies could, and did sometimes, construct their companies so that they were bid-proof. There were a considerable number of companies in Britain that did the same thing, including GUS, P & O, Savoy Hotels, Tristram Forte and Sotheby's.

Lady Kinloss (Ind) asked for an assurance that jobs would be protected.

Lord Young: It is not for me to say whether jobs are secure or are not secure. I am aware of the feelings in York which, I suspect, has been whipped up by the enormous speculation.

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HAYS MARINE SERVICES

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It's always made sound business sense not to stake everything on a single venture. That's how Hays plc has grown to become one of the largest business services and distribution groups in the UK. Included among its customers are giants like Tesco, ICI, Shell,

Hays
THE COMPANY OF GREAT COMPANIES

Ford and The Stock Exchange. For more information about the companies above, or any of the range of Hays companies, please write to Andrew Morison, Hays plc, Hays House, Millmead, Guildford, Surrey, GU2 5HJ. Or telephone him on (0485) 302205.



Gould: Call for debate



Clarke: Policy is clear

Hays Distribution Services Ltd, Hays Contract Distribution Ltd, Interbond Distribution, TCD Temperature Controlled Distribution, Hays Storage Services Ltd, Hays Cold Storage, Hays Distribution Consultants, Theale Commercial Services Ltd, Hays Marine Services Ltd, Bowker and King Ltd, Crescent Shipping Ltd, Crescent Shipyard Ltd, Crescent Wharves Ltd, Trafco UK Ltd, Hays Commercial Services Ltd, Hays Business Services Ltd, Hays Business Services SA (Belgium), Britdoc Ltd, Data Express Ltd, Bentacrate Ltd, St Olaf Insurance Brokers Ltd, Spandoc S.A. (Spain) Interchange Ltd, (Hong Kong), Hays Personnel Services Ltd, Accountancy Personnel Ltd, Montrose Technical Staff Ltd, TAV Staff Agency Ltd, Accountancy Personnel Inc (USA), Accountancy Placements Pty Ltd (Australia), Hays Chemicals Ltd, International Additives Ltd, Blacksmith Chemical Services Ltd, Hays Technology Systems Ltd, T H Dixon & Co Ltd, Autofeds London Ltd, Magnus-Graphics Corp. (USA), DATM Inc. (USA).

Japan acts on tariff reforms

A special tax committee has recommended that rates on Japanese domestic liquor be raised 75 per cent to help meet British criticism of discriminatory taxation on whisky.

But yesterday's recommendation by the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's research committee on taxation would still leave a 10-fold differential between tax on whisky and that on high-grade *shochu*, a clear alcohol prepared from potatoes. A large increase in

From David Watts, Tokyo

tax on sake is also anticipated while there would be a modest increase in duty on whisky to ¥1,011 per litre (about \$4.39), according to the committee.

The government has said it will unify the tax system on whisky, replacing the present heavy taxation on imported bottled whisky which is taxed much more heavily than imported malt.

Mr Sadanori Yamanaka, chairman of the committee,

said he was trying to narrow the tax between the two in response to Mrs Thatcher's demands and obtain agreement before the Prime Minister, Mr Noboru Takeshita, goes to London again next month. It is hoped that a final outline of the tax reform will be ready before the Toronto summit next month.

But the opposition parties have vowed to oppose any attempts to impose an indirect tax.

AN UNBROKEN RECORD OF EARNINGS GROWTH

INTERIM RESULTS FOR THE 26 WEEKS ENDED 27th FEBRUARY 1988			
UNAUDITED	1988	1987	INCREASE
TURNOVER	£314.0m	£172.0m	+83%
PROFIT BEFORE TAXATION	£48.1m	£36.9m	+30%
PROFIT AFTER TAXATION	£42.3m	£31.6m	+34%
EARNINGS PER SHARE (BASIC)	22.9p	19.9p	+15%
DIVIDEND PER SHARE (NET)	2.20p	1.46p	+50%

Across the board, the Group has continued its policy of applying proven skills in marketing high quality, low cost products on a worldwide basis while demonstrating increasingly less dependence on any one product area or any single geographical location.

The growth of our business in the major target areas of Europe, America and the Far East is moving ahead quickly and profitably, and we welcome the challenge presented by 1992 when the European Economic Community becomes a single internal market.

Asil Nadir - Chairman

POLLY PECK INTERNATIONAL PLC

COPIES OF THE FULL INTERIM STATEMENT CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE SECRETARY, POLLY PECK INTERNATIONAL PLC, 42 BERKELEY SQUARE, MAYFAIR, LONDON W1X 5DB.

TURNOVER BY DIVISION

Agriculture 38.5%

Electronics 48.3%

Textiles 13.2%

Other 0%

Turnover by Region

Europe 33.6%

North America 22.9%

Far East 1.1%

Other 0%

Glaxo hits year's low as top team downgrades forecast of profits

Shares of Glaxo, the pharmaceuticals and chemicals group, showed the scars of a significant profits downgrade by the top-rated team of analysts at Kleinwort Greaves Securities, the broker, last night when they closed 14p down at a new low for the year of 898p following a turnover of 3.6 million shares.

Mr Ian White and Miss Barbara Arzumanow, voted the top pharmaceuticals analysts in the Eitel survey, have downgraded their pretax profits forecast for the year to June from £812.5 million to £790 million, a figure they believe to be the lowest in the City.

They have taken the decision after carrying out a prolonged study of Glaxo's associated companies in Japan and Germany. They found that the two have significantly increased marketing expenditure which will have a negative, short-term impact on earnings.

They also had hoped that Glaxo would not use all of the £220 million it had budgeted for in its research and development programme, but it now appears that the full amount will be spent.

Mr White told *The Times*: "I would advise buyers to hold off the shares in the short-term, but believe on a longer-term outlook the shares are undervalued."

Elsewhere, the rest of the equity market was preoccupied with events in the food sector following the Government's decision not to refer Nestlé's £2.1 billion bid for Rowntree to the Monopolies Commission.

Shares of Rowntree, which had jumped by 25p the previous day on hopes of a non-referral, soared to £10, a fresh gain of 84p amid speculation that Jacobs Suchard, the rival Swiss group, which holds a 29.9 per cent stake in Rowntree, would soon launch a counter bid.

Cadbury Schweppes, the confectionery and chocolate group, jumped by 11p to 372p on a turnover of 17 million shares as speculators took the view that now the Rowntree bid had been given the green light, it will not be long before General Cinema of the US, which yesterday revealed it had increased its stake in the

company to 18.4 per cent, will make a move on Cadbury.

Takeover fever spread to other areas of the market and helped overall sentiment. Business benefited and the volume of shares traded on the Seaq computer jumped to 528.8 million.

Shares closed below the best after some operators decided to sell into the rise, but the FTSE 100 share index still closed with a gain of 5 points at 1,787.9 after displaying a rise of nearly 14 points at best. The narrower FT 30 share index ended 2.4 points up at 1,430.7.

Gilt-edged stocks closed with moderate falls following the sell-out of the £800 million Treasury 8.5 per cent tender tap issue.

Waterford Glass, which took over Wedgwood for £265 million in 1986, advanced by 7p more to 93p as bid speculation intensified. Whispers in the market suggest that the Fitzwilliam investment company is on the verge of launching a bid. Dealers expect Waterford to resist strongly.

Ratners, the fast-expanding jewellery retail group, which today opens its 1,000th store on the corner of Piccadilly Circus in London, rose 3p to 262p, after 267p, as investors continued to take a bullish view ahead of a US visit by analysts next month.

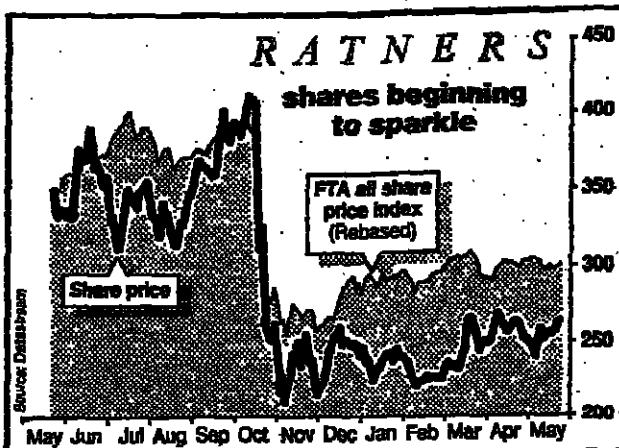
Mr Gerald Ratner, the chairman, and board representatives have been making a tour of the City recently. On Tuesday, they lunched with McCaughey, Dyson - Capel Curre, the broker. The meeting went smoothly and augurs well for next week's visit to the offices of SBCI Savory Millin.

Ratners has recently made three substantial acquisitions in the US - Sterling, Westhall and Osterman. Confirmation that an American Depository Receipt facility has been arranged has also given the shares a boost.

Miss Hilary Monk, a stores analyst at Prudential-Bache Capital Funding, the US broker, rates the shares as a buy.

She says that they continue to look undervalued despite a recent rally after the unfair, post-crash collapse to about the 210p level following wor-

STOCK MARKET



ries about its exposure to the US economy.

The group looks set for above-average earnings growth through to 1990 and beyond. Current trading continues to be remarkably buoyant, which is a reflection of the group's excellent marketing skills.

Ratners recently announced full-year figures for the year to January 1988, showing pretax profits rising from £22.5 million to £50.4 million. Miss Monk expects a 33 per cent increase in profits this year to £77 million and is looking for a figure of £93 million in 1990.

Storacase, the HES-40-Habriet Mothercare retailing group headed by Sir Terence Conran, rose to 263p in early

dealings before closing 1p easier at 259p.

The group is due to unveil full-year figures next Thursday and these are likely to make gloomy reading, showing a fall from profits of £129 million to between £110 million and £115 million.

Mr Zak Keshavjee, an analyst at SBCI Savory Millin, is going for pretax profits of £113 million.

He reckons that, just left to fundamentals, the shares should be sold, given the bid-inflated rating and the muted earnings growth of 12 per cent per annum during the medium term.

But fundamentals are the least likely factor to affect the share price during the coming

12 months and his recommendation has to be a speculative buy. A break-up bid is the likeliest outcome and he estimates a fully-valued exit price of 500p.

Last month, Mr Robert Maxwell, the publisher, was reported to have raised his stake in Storehouse to 3.46 per cent. At the same time, various stories were doing the rounds that a consortium bid was on the way with Sir YK Pao's World International Group showing an interest.

Next, the retailer headed by Mr George Davies, held firm at 258p as the company prepared for today's meeting with Citicorp, Scrimgeour Vickers, the broker. Rival broker Smith New Court will

Standard Chartered, the international bank, rose 6p to 454p as County NatWest WoodMac, the broker, recommended purchases of the shares following a visit to the company. The broker has upgraded its profits forecast for 1988 to £280 million pretax, putting the shares on a p/e of 4 times.

play host next week. Dixons, the high street electrical retailer run by Mr Stanley Kahn, rose by 4p to 176p after the market heard that permission has been given for the listing of the company's shares on the Tokyo Stock Exchange from next Tuesday.

The listing is to be accompanied by a public offering of 9.3 million new shares which have been placed with Japanese investors at a price of 174.2p per share.

Shares of Amber Day, the women's clothing retailer, which have been a firm market of late on talk that a deal could be in the pipeline, gained 4p to 72p.

This followed a statement from the directors, saying that they had noted the recent strength of the share price and can confirm that negotiations regarding a possible acquisition are in progress.

BTR, Sir Owen Green's industrial conglomerate, attracted support, closing 6p higher at 256p with more than 10 million shares changing hands.

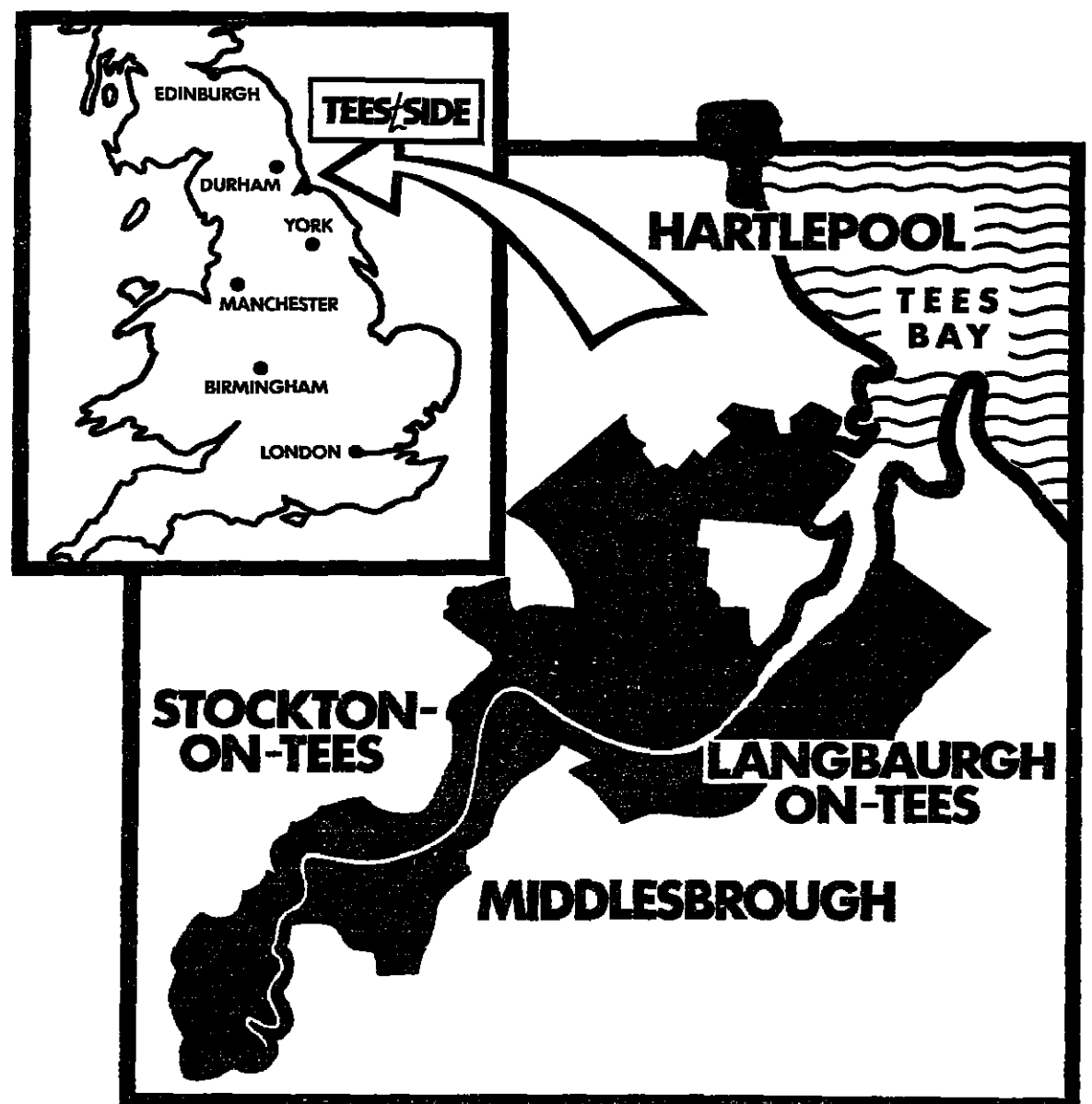
Geoffrey Foster

ALPHA STOCKS

Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000
ADT 658	Costs 1,910	Land Sec 680	Royal Ind 3,177
Abbey 2,263	CU 2,180	Lipson 442	Salsbury 2,218
Ald-Lyons 670	Corn Gold 606	Lloyds 1,773	Scott & N 2,228
Amsted 3,228	Cookson 84	Loyds 1,773	Scott & N 2,228
ASDA 5,580	Courts 3,231	Loyds 1,773	Scott & N 2,228
AB Foods 818	Delgry 2,213	Loyds 1,773	Scott & N 2,228
Argus 2,248	Dea 8,197	Loyds 1,773	Scott & N 2,228
BAA 7,300	Dixons 2,836	Loyds 1,773	Scott & N 2,228
BEC 932	ECC 1,192	Loyds 1,773	Scott & N 2,228
BTR 10,428	Enterprise 926	Loyds 1,773	Scott & N 2,228
BAT 371	Ferranti 5,114	Loyds 1,773	Scott & N 2,228
Bendley 1,250	Fisons 710	Loyds 1,773	Scott & N 2,228
Bentley 375	FPO Stock 224	Loyds 1,773	Scott & N 2,228
Beecham 2,907	Gen Acc 749	Loyds 1,773	Scott & N 2,228
Bentley SW 72	GEC 8,470	Loyds 1,773	Scott & N 2,228
BICC 2,280	Globe Inv 420	Loyds 1,773	Scott & N 2,228
Blue Arrow 1,285	Glynedd 228	Loyds 1,773	Scott & N 2,228
Blue Circle 845	Grainco 945	Loyds 1,773	Scott & N 2,228
BOC 719	Grand Met 998	Loyds 1,773	Scott & N 2,228
Boots 989	GLS 'A' 274	Loyds 1,773	Scott & N 2,228
BPB 1,174	Grail 4,007	Loyds 1,773	Scott & N 2,228
Br Aero 1,489	GKN 1,555	Loyds 1,773	Scott & N 2,228
Br Airways 5,855	Guinness 782	Loyds 1,773	Scott & N 2,228
Br Comm 1,917	Hamm 'A' 158	Loyds 1,773	Scott & N 2,228
Br Gas 610	Hamm 'B' 984	Loyds 1,773	Scott & N 2,228
Br Petrol 2,781	Hawker 1,059	Loyds 1,773	Scott & N 2,228
Br Telecom 4,472	Hilldown 2,401	Loyds 1,773	Scott & N 2,228
Bridg 1,522	ICI 561	Loyds 1,773	Scott & N 2,228
Burd 2,210	Inchcape 606	Loyds 1,773	Scott & N 2,228
Burnham 335	Jaguar 2,133	Loyds 1,773	Scott & N 2,228
Burns 3,028	Johnson 1,175	Loyds 1,773	Scott & N 2,228
CBW 5,175	Leeds 1,037	Loyds 1,773	Scott & N 2,228
Cadbury 17,504		Loyds 1,773	Scott & N 2,228

TEES/SIDE

DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION



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of them all

At 12,000 acres - 19 square miles - Teesside is the biggest of the new urban development projects. Almost as big as all the rest put together. Including London Docklands.

Teesside. A project to reinvest its areas with all the modern industrial, business, social and leisure amenities that today's society demands.

Teesside. Embracing the lower reaches and estuary of the Tees and part of Hartlepool. Drawing on the great industrial tradition of Middlesbrough, Stockton, Langbaugh and Hartlepool. Affording the facilities of the UK's third largest port, and Teesside International Airport. Boasting the strengths and advanced engineering and technology of industrial giants like ICI, British Steel, Davy McKee and Phillips Petroleum. Flourishing two Enterprise Zones. Offering all the skills and expertise to underwrite any industrial and commercial enterprise. Enjoying the rich scenic, architectural and cultural hinterland of Cleveland, North Yorkshire and Northumbria.

Teesside. An established manufacturing, business and communications base on which to initiate and participate in profitable ventures. Already up and running. With a host of innovative projects in train. With a host of initiatives in its sights.

"60 years of successful ICI production research and commercial drive in and from the Region would not have been possible without the high quality of skills, commitment and support of the people of Teesside."

- Denys Henderson, Chairman, ICI

'We are setting out once again to be ahead of our time...'

مكة امين الامل

WALL STREET

Dow up 10 points in early trading

New York (Reuters) — Shares were higher over a wide area in early trading yesterday, but were easing back from opening gains. Brokers reported that buying was mostly technical and limited to traders. They added that the market was waiting for today's gross national product revision for signals about inflation.

The Dow Jones industrial average was 10 points higher at 1,972.53. Rising shares outnumbered falling ones by nearly two to one.

Utah Power and Light was the most active issue, rising by 30¢ on a volume of 4

million shares. Brokers said that the issue was involved in a dividend-capture situation. The Dow average closed 21.05 higher at 1,962.53 on Tuesday.

Chicago — CNW Corporation has agreed to sell Douglas Dynamics, its snow plough manufacturing unit, to Park-Kenilworth Industries for \$100 million (£53.6 million). Park-Kenilworth is a new holding company affiliated with Grubell Corporation, the suburban Chicago company wholly owned by Mr William Stocker, a 31-year-old industrialist.

US boost for Tokyo shares

(Reuters) — Share prices closed higher in active trading yesterday due to market sentiment boosted by Wall Street's rebound overnight. But whether Wall Street can get fully back on its feet is still in question, brokers said.

The Nikkei Dow index gained 130.99 points, or 0.48 per cent, to 27,463.65. It rose by 62.90 points on Tuesday. Rises outnumbered falls by three to two on turnover of 1.5 billion shares against 1.1 billion — the largest volume since April 8.

Communications, gas, rolling stock, property, pulp-paper, non-life insurance, railway/bus, retail, road transport, shipbuilding, steel and warehouse issues led the advance.

Bank, pharmaceutical, credit/lease, rubber and electrical shares declined.

Brokers said investors turned inward for further confidence and, based on a strong Japanese economy and low interest rates, decided that buying equities in Tokyo is still sound.

Frankfurt moves up

(Reuters) — Share prices closed sharply higher in Frankfurt, with banks leading the way up after overnight gains on Wall Street.

The market was clearly pulled higher by the banks which have an attractive dividend yield for domestic investors, one dealer said. The Commerzbank 60-share index rose 15.4 points to 1,341.1.

Deutsche Bank rose to DM10.90 to DM395.70 and Commerzbank and Dresdner Bank, which pay their dividends shortly, firmed by DM7.80 and DM9.20 to DM224.50 and DM247.

Sydney firms before budget

Sydney (Reuters) — The national stock market closed strongly firmer yesterday, ahead of the May mini-budget and reached its highest level since last October. Light profit-taking later in the day saw the All-Ordinaries index close 20 points higher at 1,493.8 — its highest since October 24 when it was 1,515.1.

David Young reports from Texas on Shell's new Bullwinkle platform

Last of the offshore dinosaurs launches into oil production

Trust the Texans — in one move they have put every superlative created by the North Sea oil industry into a distant second place.

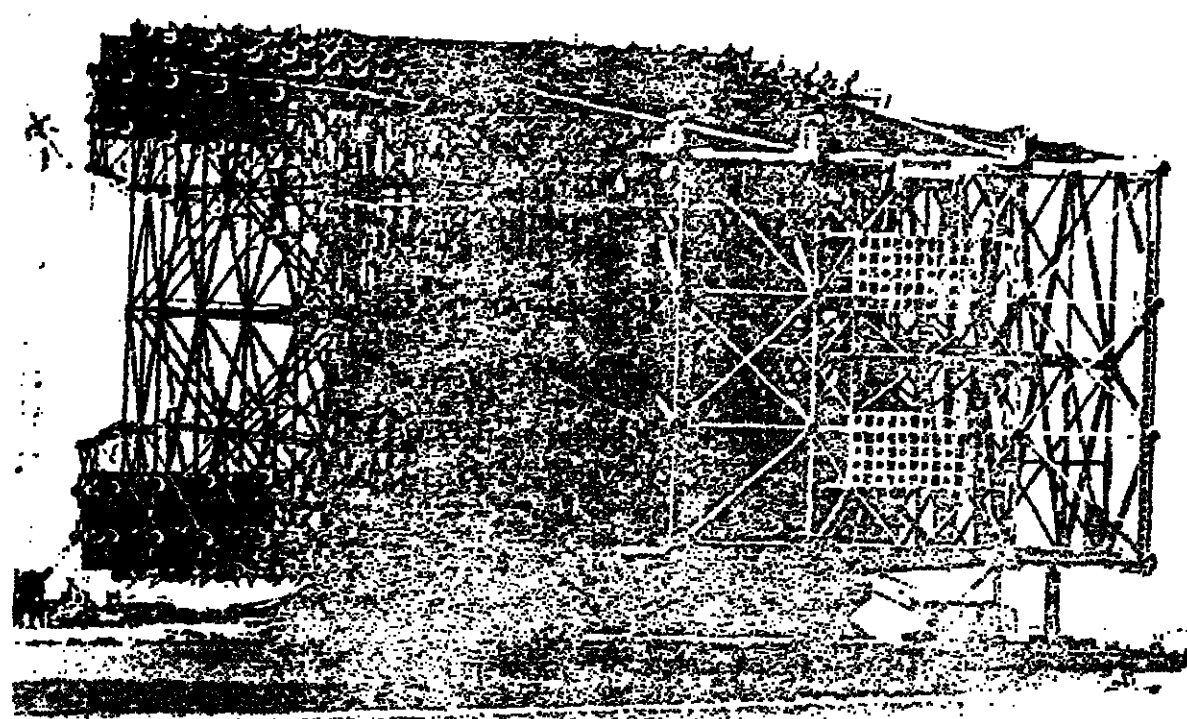
This weekend the citizens of Corpus Christi on the Gulf of Mexico will bid farewell to the world's biggest offshore oil platform. Even though the construction yard where Shell has built the Bullwinkle platform is 18 miles from the town centre it is clearly visible — a constant reminder to Corpus Christi of its dependency on the oil business.

The platform will enable Shell to bring oil ashore from the deepest offshore oilfield in the Gulf of Mexico ever brought into production, in an area 150 miles south of New Orleans. The Bullwinkle field stands 1,353 ft deep in water and the platform will stand 1,615 ft high, taller than the Sears building in Chicago, the world's tallest, and more than twice as high as London's NatWest Tower.

Even on its side Bullwinkle is as high as Shell's largest platform in the North Sea, the Plinian field.

Mr John Krebs, Shell Oil's deep-water manager, has calculated that the amount of steel used in the structure would produce enough cars to cause a traffic jam on the M1 from London to Birmingham.

However, he is less forthcoming on the size of the oil reservoir above which the platform will sit. Here the North Sea comes out on top, with Bullwinkle designed to produce 50,000 barrels of oil a day and 1 million cubic ft of



The world's largest offshore oil platform, built by Shell, being prepared for transport to the Gulf of Mexico

gas, small by North Sea standards.

Industry experts in Texas have calculated that Bullwinkle might have reserves of about 100 million barrels of oil, a level at which the North Sea companies would be having second thoughts about planning a development.

Mr Krebs said: "The project was planned when oil was \$25 a barrel but even at today's prices we will make money from it."

In some other respects Bullwinkle is outshone by

several North Sea projects, but in a less than favourable way. The cost of Bullwinkle has been kept down to \$500 million (£265 million), about a third of the price of a current large North Sea project.

The reason is that the labour force at the Corpus Christi construction yard has accepted almost half the wages paid in the North Sea industry, and a 30 per cent cut on earnings of two years ago when the oil price was higher.

In addition, Bullwinkle will make it uncompetitive. However, the North Sea

industry will never have the chance to prove him wrong.

Bullwinkle is the last of the offshore dinosaurs and the next generation of deep-water oil fields will use different technology, such as the tension-leg platform.

Mr Dunn said: "I'm not going to say absolutely that we will never see another structure like this, but it is highly unlikely. When I started in this business we were working in 60 ft of water and now there are plans to go even deeper than Bullwinkle."

which would not be tolerated in the North Sea.

Mr Pat Dunn, Shell Oil's civil engineering manager, who supervised the Shell Brent project in the North Sea in the 1970s, said: "We have learned from lessons from the North Sea but the main advantage here is cost. There are the skills to build such a platform in the North Sea but the prices quoted for labour in the North Sea yards would make it uneconomic."

However, the North Sea

Ellis rejects £28m Berkertex cash bid

By Graham Searjeant

A rag trade battle broke out yesterday as Berkertex bid £28 million cash for Ellis & Goldstein.

Ellis immediately rejected the 95p a share offer as having no financial or commercial merit and its shares jumped from 81p to 100p.

Both companies make women's clothes for multiples and have their own chains of retail outlets, principally through shops-within-shops.

Berkertex is a private com-

pany created in its present form through a management buyout from Raybeck in 1986. Candover Investments and a consortium of institutions which backed the original buyout have agreed to provide the cash for the bid.

Ellis & Goldstein operates Eastex, Doretta and Dash brands. It had a second successive setback in the year to January when profits fell from £3.7 million to £2.6 million pretax.

This was due to teething problems with its attempts to

re-orient sales to a younger market. The launch of its new Jenny Barnes range was not a success and has been cut back.

There were also problems with expanding Dash shops in the United States.

Berkertex has a £29 million turnover from its specialist retail outlets, Berkertex Occasions and Berkertex Brides, but has not made as much progress as Ellis in developing its own shops. It also has a £15 million manufacturing and design business, mainly for mail order.

Payout cut at Rex Williams

Rex Williams, the snooker group, is cutting its dividend despite a rise in pretax profits from £204,000 to £225,000 for the year to end-November.

Since the share capital more than doubled, a maintained payment would have meant distributing more than the company earned, so the final is more than halved from 0.49p to 0.2p, making 0.62p for the year against 0.91p.

Earnings are 1.02p a share against 1.17p.

Biggest Biggest

investment opportunities

Teesside. A dynamic ongoing industrial, commercial and social programme in which you can participate. A dynamic ongoing programme which offers prime investment and development opportunities.

Opportunities that are apparent in the range of initiatives set out in this advertisement, in all of which participation is invited. Opportunities beyond these which Teesside is ready willing and able to demonstrate, discuss and aid. Opportunities for your own initiatives on Teesside.

Opportunities that are enhanced by the package of incentives and assistance that only Teesside can put together for you. Grants and other benefits that stem from Teesside's Development Area status and from its two Enterprise Zones. Grants and loans available from the European Community to Teesside as an area where traditional industries have declined. Free advisory and support services for both established and incoming enterprises.

Opportunities that are underpinned by Teesside's 'European Gateway' situation, by its excellent motorway, rail and air communications, and by its established status as a financial centre.

"Two years ago the Davy Group marked 100 years of continuous operation on Teesside, with the centenary of Ashmore Benson Pease. Today, our worldwide operations in the minerals, metals and nuclear industries; our R&D Centre, which has a leading edge on world technology; and the HQ of our offshore module building and marine services — are all on Teesside. Their success is based on the enterprise and technical capability of the people who work on Teesside. We look forward to another century of successful service to our customers worldwide from our strong base on Teesside."

— Lord Jellicoe, Chairman, Davy Corporation

range of initiatives

In place — ICT's biggest UK manufacturing unit — on Teesside — has already taken a technological initiative with its advanced international R & D centre. British Steel's worldwide expertise — on Teesside — also operates one of Britain's highest-tech projects in its advanced high tensile steel testing facility. Davy Corporation's new advanced engineering technologies are pursued — on Teesside. Europe's biggest CAD/CAM centre in the Middlesbrough Enterprise Zone — is on Teesside.

Newly launched — Teesside Offshore Base for ocean bed technology. A joint venture between Teesside Development Corporation, Tees and Hartlepool Port Authority, Ugland, Northern Ocean Services and British Telecom International Marine Services to put Teesside at the forefront of ocean bed exploitation technology.

On the stocks — an 800 berth marina, maritime heritage, residential, hotel and entertainment complex at Hartlepool.

To find out how you can participate in the Biggest Development and Investment Opportunities: Contact Duncan Hall, Chief Executive, Teesside Development Corporation, Tees House, Riverside Park, Middlesbrough, Cleveland TS2 1RE. Tel: (0642) 230636.

TEESSIDE
Initiative Talent Ability

...where you have initiative, talent and ability, the money follows' the Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister, Teesside, 16 September 1987

First Class.

British Airways pre-tax profits up by 41% to a record £228m, for the year to 31 March 1988.

Group turnover increased 15% to £3756m. Earnings were 21 pence per share.
Final dividend of 4.65 pence per share payable 31st July 1988.

Acquired British Caledonian Airways.

Carried over 23 million passengers and 360,000 tonnes of cargo.

Introduced new Club Europe and Club World brands.

Established a marketing partnership with United Airlines, the largest single airline in the U.S.A.

Welcomed the Airbus A320 to our fleet.

Ordered new Rolls-Royce powered Boeing 767s.

Moved into the new Gatwick North Terminal.

BRITISH AIRWAYS

The world's favourite airline.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL ON 6 JULY 1988. THE REPORT AND ACCOUNTS WILL BE POSTED TO ALL SHAREHOLDERS IN EARLY JUNE 1988. FURTHER COPIES WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM: BRITISH AIRWAYS, PO BOX 105, HIGH WYCOMBE, BUCKS. HP12 8NE

مكتبة امنه الأصل

● Ex dividend a Ex all b Forecast dividend c Interim payment passed f Price at suspension g Dividend and yield exclude a special payment h Pre-merger figures n Forecast earnings o Ex other r Ex rights s Ex scrip or share split t Tax-free .. No significant data.

[illegible]

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Market rates for May 25

	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
New York	1,853.0-1,859.0	1,864.0-1,860.0	0.004-0.001	0.010-0.004
Monro	2,313.95-2,318.0	2,316.95-2,319.1	0.17-0.38	0.40-0.92
London	3,252.9-3,253.5	3,253.0-3,253.5	11-19	30-39
Brussels	68.06-68.25	68.16-68.25	13-20	35-21
Copenhagen	12,089.12-12,103	12,089.12-12,103	94-96	95-101
Frankfurt	3,710.3-3,713.1	3,713.5-3,719.1	14-19	30-39
Liban	255.0-258.0	258.0-259.24	76-110	257-357
Paris	233.2-233.4	233.4-233.5	39-43	91-123
Milan	2,353.7-2,357.0	2,357.10-2,358.25	2-16	12-20
Oslo	11,519.8-11,549.7	11,520.10-11,549.7	44-55	144-169
Stockholm	10,707.10-10,721	10,710.10-10,721	44-55	144-169
Tokyo	11,020.11-11,034	11,021.11-11,033	24-36	64-84
Zurich	231.57-231.7	231.50-231.6	34-39	84-94
Zurich	2,647-2,656.7	2,650.4-2,657.1	74-79	224-234

Précision: 1 pt. Discount: 0.05%

OTHER STERLING RATES

Argentina austral	16,874-16,88
Australia dollar	2,387.2-2,371
Bahrain dir	0.7010-0.703
Brazil cruzeiro	28.70-29.24
Ceylon rupee	0.894-0.894
Cyprus pound	0.292-0.294
French franc	7.4957-7.501
Greco drachma	233.0-235.5
Hong Kong dollar	14,534-14,534
Indian rupee	4.84-4.8612
Kuwait dinar	0.6935-0.71
Malaysian dollar	0.68-0.68
Mexican peso	4.415-4.42
New Zealand dollar	2,672.9-2,679
Saudi Arabia riyal	2,672.9-2,679
Singapore dollar	2,672.9-2,679
Sri Lanka rupee	5.4245-5.434
Taiwan dollar	5.4245-5.434
U.A.E. dirham	6.639-6.64

*Lloyds Bank. Rates supplied by
Edel and Sharkey Bank HOFEX

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Ireland	1,568.1-1,570.0	Denmark	6,485.0-6,490.0	Italy	1,284.0-1,285
Singapore	2,016.5-2,017.5	W Germany	1,704.5-1,707.5	Belgium (C)	36.48-36.5
Spain	1,670.0-1,671.0	Switzerland	1,704.5-1,707.5	Hong Kong	7.78-7.79
Australia	1,270.5-1,271.5	Netherlands	1,909.5-1,909.5	Portugal	138.0-139.0
Canada	2,524.0-2,524.0	France	5,752.5-5,755.5	Spain	112.05-112.1
Norway	1,617.0-1,620.0	Japan	120.0-124.0		

Rates supplied by Barclays Bank HOFEX and Edel

MONEY MARKETS

Base Rates %: Clearing Banks 7% Finance Has 9%	EURO MONEY DEPOSITS %				
Discount Market Rates %	Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth
1 week 10 1/2% 1 month 11 1/2% Week finance 7%	3 mth	3 mth	3 mth	3 mth	3 mth
Treasury Bills (Discount) %	7 1/2-7 5/8	7 1/2-7 5/8	7 1/2-7 5/8	7 1/2-7 5/8	7 1/2-7 5/8
Buying: 2 mth - 7 1/2 3 mth - 7 1/2	Deutschemark:	7 1/2-7 5/8	7 1/2-7 5/8	7 1/2-7 5/8	7 1/2-7 5/8
Selling: 2 mth - 7 1/2 3 mth - 7 1/2	Pound:	7 1/2-7 5/8	7 1/2-7 5/8	7 1/2-7 5/8	7 1/2-7 5/8
Prime Bank Bills (Discount) %:	Cash 7 1/2				
2 mth 7 1/2-7 3/4 3 mth 7 1/2-7 3/4 1 mth 7 1/2-7 3/4	Cash 7 1/2				
Time bills (Discount) %:	Cash 7 1/2				
2 mth 7 1/2-7 3/4 3 mth 7 1/2-7 3/4 6 mth 8 1/4	Cash 7 1/2				
1 week 7 1/2-7 3/4 1 mth 7 1/2-7 3/4 3 mth 7 1/2-7 3/4	Var:	4 1/2-4 3/4	4 1/2-4 3/4	4 1/2-4 3/4	4 1/2-4 3/4
6 mth 8 1/4-8 1/4 9 mth 8 1/4-8 1/4 12 mth 8 1/4-8 1/4	Cash 9 1/2-9 3/4				
Local Authority Deposits %:					
2 day 7 1/2 7 day 7 1/2 1 mth 7 1/2					
3 mth 7 1/2 6 mth 8 1/4 9 mth 8 1/4 12 mth 8 1/4					
Local Authority Deposits %:					
1 mth 7 1/2-7 3/4 2 mth 7 1/2-7 3/4 3 mth 7 1/2-7 3/4					
6 mth 8 1/4-8 1/4 9 mth 8 1/4-8 1/4 12 mth 8 1/4-8 1/4					
Starting CDs %:					
1 mth 7 1/2-7 3/4 6 mth 8 1/4-8 1/4 12 mth 8 1/4-8 1/4					
3 mth 7 1/2-7 3/4 6 mth 8 1/4-8 1/4 12 mth 8 1/4-8 1/4					

Fixed Rate Sterling Eurodollar. Make-up date: April 29, 1988. Aged rates May 25, 1988 to June 28, 1988. Scheme 1: 9.72 per cent. Schemes 1 & 1C: 9.58 per cent. Reference rate April 1, 1988 to April 29, 1988. Scheme No. 6:402 per cent.

EURO MONEY DEPOSITS %

COINS: \$457.00-457.02 (\$250.00-250.00)

Krugersilver: \$452.00-455.00 (\$250.00-250.00)

Swiss franc: \$457.00-457.02 (\$250.00-250.00)

American silver: \$457.00-457.02 (\$250.00-250.00)

New Howerings: \$107.00-108.00 (\$25.00-25.75)

1000

Open	High	Low	Close	Vol	Open	High
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Three Month Sterling		Previous open interest 34876		US Treasury Bond		Previous open interest 6576			
Jan 85	91.36	91.36	91.31	91.36	1	Jan 85	95.21	95.25	1
Feb 85	91.36	91.36	91.31	91.36	1	Feb 85	95.21	95.25	1
Mar 85	91.36	91.36	91.31	91.36	1	Mar 85	95.21	95.25	1
Apr 85	91.36	91.36	91.31	91.36	1	Apr 85	95.21	95.25	1
May 85	91.36	91.36	91.31	91.36	1	May 85	95.21	95.25	1
Jun 85	91.36	91.36	91.31	91.36	1	Jun 85	95.21	95.25	1
Jul 85	91.36	91.36	91.31	91.36	1	Jul 85	95.21	95.25	1
Aug 85	91.36	91.36	91.31	91.36	1	Aug 85	95.21	95.25	1
Sep 85	91.36	91.36	91.31	91.36	1	Sep 85	95.21	95.25	1
Oct 85	91.36	91.36	91.31	91.36	1	Oct 85	95.21	95.25	1
Nov 85	91.36	91.36	91.31	91.36	1	Nov 85	95.21	95.25	1
Dec 85	91.36	91.36	91.31	91.36	1	Dec 85	95.21	95.25	1
Jan 86	91.36	91.36	91.31	91.36	1	Jan 86	95.21	95.25	1
Feb 86	91.36	91.36	91.31	91.36	1	Feb 86	95.21	95.25	1
Mar 86	91.36	91.36	91.31	91.36	1	Mar 86	95.21	95.25	1
Apr 86	91.36	91.36	91.31	91.36	1	Apr 86	95.21	95.25	1
May 86	91.36	91.36	91.31	91.36	1	May 86	95.21	95.25	1
Jun 86	91.36	91.36	91.31	91.36	1	Jun 86	95.21	95.25	1
Jul 86	91.36	91.36	91.31	91.36	1	Jul 86	95.21	95.25	1
Aug 86	91.36	91.36	91.31	91.36	1	Aug 86	95.21	95.25	1
Sep 86	91.36	91.36	91.31	91.36	1	Sep 86	95.21	95.25	1
Oct 86	91.36	91.36	91.31	91.36	1	Oct 86	95.21	95.25	1
Nov 86	91.36	91.36	91.31	91.36	1	Nov 86	95.21	95.25	1
Dec 86	91.36	91.36	91.31	91.36	1	Dec 86	95.21	95.25	1
Jan 87	91.36	91.36	91.31	91.36	1	Jan 87	95.21	95.25	1
Feb 87	91.36	91.36	91.31	91.36	1	Feb 87	95.21	95.25	1
Mar 87	91.36	91.36	91.31	91.36	1	Mar 87	95.21	95.25	1
Apr 87	91.36	91.36	91.31	91.36	1	Apr 87	95.21	95.25	1
May 87	91.36	91.36	91.31	91.36	1	May 87	95.21	95.25	1
Jun 87	91.36	91.36	91.31	91.36	1	Jun 87	95.21	95.25	1
Jul 87	91.36	91.36	91.31	91.36	1	Jul 87	95.21	95.25	1
Aug 87	91.36	91.36	91.31	91.36	1	Aug 87	95.21	95.25	1
Sep 87	91.36	91.36	91.31	91.36	1	Sep 87	95.21	95.25	1
Oct 87	91.36	91.36	91.31	91.36	1	Oct 87	95.21	95.25	1
Nov 87	91.36	91.36	91.31	91.36	1	Nov 87	95.21	95.25	1
Dec 87	91.36	91.36	91.31	91.36	1	Dec 87	95.21	95.25	1
Jan 88	91.36	91.36	91.31	91.36	1	Jan 88	95.21	95.25	1
Feb 88	91.36	91.36	91.31	91.36	1	Feb 88	95.21	95.25	1
Mar 88	91.36	91.36	91.31	91.36	1	Mar 88	95.21	95.25	1
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Feb 89	91.36	91.36	91.31	91.36	1	Feb 89	95.21	95.25	1
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Jan 95	91.36	91.36	91.31	91.36	1	Jan 95	95.21	95.25	1
Feb 95	91.36	91.36	91.31	91.36	1	Feb 95	95.21	95.25	1
Mar 95	91.36	91.36	91.31	91.36	1	Mar 95	95.21	95.25	1
Apr 95	91.36	91.36	91.31	91.36	1	Apr 95	95.21	95.25	1
May 95	91.36	91.36	91.31	91.36	1	May 95	95.21	95.25	1
Jun 95	91.36	91.36	91.31	91.36	1	Jun 95	95.21	95.25	1
Jul 95	91.36	91.36	91.31	91.36	1	Jul 95	95.21	95.25	1
Aug 95	91.36	91.36	91.31						

GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

May 26, 1988

Colin Richards-Carpenter, a manpower expert, describes the response from one section of industry to the computer age

It is often said that a day in journalism is a long time. Well, most jobs may not change that quickly, but some are developing at a startling rate, and in the continuously changing business environment it is the role of the humble personnel officer that has gone through the greatest metamorphosis. A working generation ago the title "personnel" hardly existed; it was the welfare function, which everybody understood was intended to cushion the worker from the excesses of the employer and to support a paternalistic management style.

The growth of enormous union power in the 1960s and 1970s heralded a significant change for the old "welfare" function. The development of the industrial relations function eliminated the lingering view that welfare work was about amateur do-gooders - the highly professional personnel function was born.

Now, that professional function finds itself facing its most difficult challenge yet, that of giving its organization a competitive edge by best relating manpower to business needs. Manpower management issues are not at the top of all board meeting agendas. No longer are platitudes such as "people are our most important asset" found in glossy-backed corporate plans. Professional manpower management is now seen as a vital key to profitability.

Let me paint you a theoretical sketch of a typical general personnel office.

The room: a large open-plan office area, perhaps seating some 10 people, a mixture of personnel officers, administrators and secretaries. The time: 10 o'clock on a Friday morning. The scene: a complete bedlam. In one corner operatives are arguing about incorrect pay packets. In another corner, shop stewards are debating the rates for a new proposed Sunday shift. A harassed receptionist is trying to deal with a queue of job applicants. Five telephones are ringing all at the same time.

In this environment senior managers ask for reflective thinking about new and imaginative ways of manpower management. Through computerization the personnel profession has responded to this challenge enormously well, releasing creative energy to deal with new challenges.

Every year the Institute of Manpower Studies and the Institute of Personnel Management run a national conference and exhibition, "Computers in Personnel" (CIP). Since 1982 I have organized in conjunction with this event a survey on the use personnel people make of computers, targeting 30,000 personnel practitioners.

Ten years ago when I first started helping organizations de-



Technology has allowed the personnel profession to move a generation on

velop their personnel systems it was only the very large organizations, employing more than 5,000 people, that used computers. Their systems were, typically, labour-intensive and difficult to use, usually handled by the company's own internal data-processing department. In terms of manpower information, 10 years ago most organizations had very little indeed.

During the past two years most organizations that use computers in personnel now employ fewer than 1,000 employees. The advent of cheap hardware and software has brought information technology into the smaller organization. Ten years ago 95 per cent of all CIP applications used large mainframe computers.

By 1982 our survey showed that 71 per cent of all applications used mainframe computers. Now this has reduced to only 44 per cent. In 1982 five per cent of all applica-

tions were on mini-computer but by 1988 this has increased to some 22 per cent, today's mini-computer having, typically, more power than the mainframe of 10 years ago.

If a fourfold growth rate in the use of mini-computers in six years seems fantastic, consider, too, the growth rate in the use of the micro-computer. In 1982 only 4 per cent of all CIP applications used micro-computers, but now in 1988 some 33 per cent of all applications are using micro-computers.

This high level of automation is bringing its own irony. The large organization by necessity still uses its mainframe computers, but the time scales in setting up a new mainframe system are long and the costs involved are large.

The life span of mainframe personnel systems is typically eight to 10 years. Compare this with a very small organization buying a "total solution" to its

needs. It may purchase a package computerized personnel information system already installed on a micro-computer for, say, £10,000. The micro system has all the latest technology available, it uses colour, it can have all documentation on screen, it has all those jazzy features of split screens etc.

All this means it is far easier for the small organization to use the latest technology than it is for the large organization.

The revolution taking place in the personnel function is also showing itself in the way in which many personnel people now manage their own systems specification, and hardware and software purchase. A new industry has developed in servicing their needs. In the early days of our survey most CIP systems were produced in-house - the 1988 survey shows that 70 per cent of all CIP applications are now based on

a bought-in commercial software package.

The trend is to automate as many of the personnel operations as possible. The time-consuming process of running payroll and pensions is being streamlined, with data being put into the computerized personnel information system and then automatically feeding these other processes. This means that substantial savings are made on data entry, and the organization has for the first time in its history superb costing information.

All personnel offices produce tons of paper. All the better new CIP systems are integrated with word-processing so that the heavy workloads associated with recruitment administration, absence control, contract of employment administration, appraisal administration, job evaluation administration etc can all be substantially reduced.

It is interesting to see how personnel people are having a greater say at board level. I believe this to be a function of two things: first, the arguments made earlier about the need to relate to people more closely to the business; second, the ability of personnel people to substantiate their arguments with fact.

The inherent weakness in the personnel function has been that many of its outputs have been based on opinion (i.e., an early retirement policy should help that promotion blockage). In times of disagreement it is surprising how many line managers believe themselves to be expert manpower policy makers and, in the absence of fact, the opinion of the most powerful manager is the one most likely to prevail.

The advent of sophisticated computerized personnel information has meant that, for the first time, personnel can support a well supported proposal that focuses debate on the facts rather than on opinion.

The business need is there and the personnel profession is responding quickly and, indeed, has moved "a generation on".

Colin Richards-Carpenter is associate director of the Institute of Manpower Studies. The seventh national conference and exhibition, "Computers in Personnel", being held from June 28 to 30, is called "A Generation On".

APPOINTMENTS PHONE: 01-481 4481 - APPOINTMENTS PHONE: 01-481 4481

M A N U F A C T U R I N G

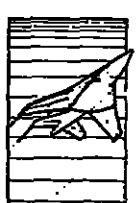
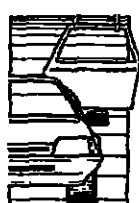
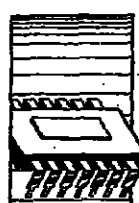
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Thus, you will have the chance to join a company where your desire for a good opportunity will be rewarded. You will be given a rich field of prospects, thus enabling you to achieve an annual salary of:

£45,000

On target earnings, and a considerably greater amount for a likely over target performance.

For more on this excellent opportunity, contact-

Mr Judy Wright
T.V.C.A. Ltd. Computer Appointments
Terminal House, Station Approach
Shepperton, Middx TW17 8AS.
TEL: Walton on Thames (0932) 244014 (24 hours)

Member of the Federation of Recruitment & Employment Services



ILIFFES Solicitors COMMERCIAL ASSISTANT

Our old established firm has a small but expanding Immigration Department.

We seek an assistant (not necessarily a solicitor) who has experience in the Immigration field, particularly the areas of entry clearance, applications for businessmen, persons of independent means and permit-free employment, and work permits.

Competitive salary and usual benefits.

Apply to: Nigel Thompson, Iliffes
49 Bernard Street, London, WC1N 1LE,
01-242 1081.

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Do you use your full capabilities in your job? Are you making progress you deserve?

If your potential is not being realised, we may be able to help you. Prudential Property Services offers many opportunities to the ambitious individual. Our Residential Letting Division is the largest and most successful in London, currently with significant offices.

We are seeking a manager to lead one of our fastest expanding offices, so if you can meet our high standards, we want to hear from you. Call or write to:

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Area Lettings Director
Prudential Property Services, 85 New Kings Road,
London SW6 4LJ

PRUDENTIAL Property Services

HEAD OF MANAGEMENT SERVICES

South West London to £35,000 + car

Our client is a major public wholesaler (turnover approaching £1 billion) with branches throughout the UK, currently undergoing a period of rapid development.

The head of management services, reporting to the finance director, will be responsible for a department of forty staff covering data processing, systems development, technical support and systems training to branches.

An essential requirement is for the appointee to identify the key areas within the business and implement timely and meaningful management information systems. In addition the individual will develop services provided by the department for greater efficiency of the overall business.

The role is more commercial than systems orientated, though applicants must be familiar with the operation of both mainframe and mini computer systems. Experience in a multi-site, high volume low margin business is important and the position calls for an individual, ideally aged around 35, with good staff management skills and the ability to initiate and sell ideas throughout an organisation.

A relocation package is available if appropriate.

Please send personal and career details quoting reference T/408/A to Carrie Andrews.

Ernst & Whinney Management Consultants

Becker House, 1 Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7EU.

01-481 4481

GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

01-481 4481

ARTHUR
ANDERSEN
& CO.

A POWERFUL FORCE IN MANUFACTURING & DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS

Sales &
Marketing

The opportunity to work for one of the largest Information Technology Consultancies in the world comes but rarely. When that opportunity is linked to a dynamic new enterprise - the creation of a software products division with an extensive and proven portfolio of products - then it is not to be missed. Building a team of the highest calibre is crucial to the success of this initiative. If you consider yourself to be pre-eminent in the manufacturing systems sector now is the time to become part of that team and realise your full potential.

Sales Professionals
Outstanding Package plus Quality Car

The word professional is often used in Recruitment advertisements. When the advertiser is Arthur Andersen Management Consultants, a company with a reputation worldwide as a trusted business adviser, then it has particular significance. We are looking for those sales professionals who consider themselves to be the best. Your significant achievement in selling manufacturing systems could have been gained in either a software products or a mini/mainframe applications environment. In return for your skills our client offers a superb product set, and the kind of rewards associated with one of the world's market leaders in Information Technology. We expect the best to enjoy appropriate rewards.

Marketing Professional
Outstanding Salary plus Quality Car

The software products division of Arthur Andersen Management Consultants will market a range of applications products and software engineering tools across major machine environments. We are seeking an outstanding

marketeer who has significant experience in the application solutions environment.

This is a key role within the organisation and will report directly to the Sales and Marketing Director of the division. The role initially will be a broad one and will cover both the strategic and day-to-day aspects of marketing. The successful applicant must be able to demonstrate experience of having developed, implemented and sustained a marketing strategy. Our emphasis is on quality, and it is envisaged that whoever fills this role will have an early opportunity to build a team.

For further details, please call Mike Roberts today between 12 noon and 4.00 p.m. or during business hours on 01-493 6343. On weekday evenings call him on 0923 776498. Alternatively please write to him enclosing a comprehensive CV at the London address below.



MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY

IT Professionals

"Join the firm with the competitive advantage"

Up to £30k
Package

Arthur Andersen Management Consultants is one of the recognised market leaders in the field of IT consultancy. We have a reputation for providing effective business solutions through the creative use of information technology. We specialise in complete solutions from strategic IT planning through to design, analysis and implementation.

Due to continued rapid expansion, we now require additional consultants in order to sustain this growth. We need people of exceptional calibre, who are enthusiastic and committed to the future of information technology.

Our clients are 'blue chip' companies in sectors such as banking, insurance, manufacturing and retailing plus major government departments and health authorities. Our work involves the practical application of IT to achieve strategic change. You will be at the forefront of that change; we are seeking to recruit change makers not just technicians.

Candidates should be graduates, aged under 27 years, with between 1 and 5 years' relevant work experience. A background in mainframes is essential as is some knowledge of programming, analysis and design. In return, we offer an outstanding training programme, a meritocratic environment, early responsibility and considerable challenge.

If this opportunity appeals to you, please send a detailed curriculum vitae and quote reference T26/5, in complete confidence to: Liz Hopkins, Arthur Andersen Management Consultants, 2 Arundel Street, London WC2R 3LT.

ARTHUR
ANDERSEN
& CO.Research
Associate

Executive Search

We are a leading Executive Search Consultancy founded 29 years ago, and wish to add to our research capability.

We are looking for someone with two or three years commercial experience, preferably, but not necessarily in a research or information role, to join a friendly team. The successful candidate will like taking initiatives and enjoy working on the telephone.

An attractive remuneration package will be negotiated.

Please apply in confidence to Cathy Lee: Renate Hall,
CLIVE & STOKES INTERNATIONAL
14 Bolton Street, London W1Y 8JL. Tel: 01-408 0370.

RESEARCH ASSISTANT
c.£10,500

Broaden your Parliamentary experience



The International and Parliamentary Affairs Unit within the International Stock Exchange is concerned with promoting topical issues to Whitehall and Westminster on an all party basis.

We now seek a capable individual to take a high profile position in our Research Team. Duties include the daily monitoring of Parliamentary developments of interest to the ISE and the preparation and presentation of regular briefing material for MPs, political parties and other political audiences. The position may also involve researching and drafting speeches/articles for the chairman and senior officials of the International Stock Exchange, as well as arranging and servicing meetings with external bodies.

Sound research experience should go hand in hand with excellent communication skills and the ability to remain organised under pressure. Self-confidence, patience and tact are crucial. The post is ideal for a graduate with a good knowledge of Parliament and ideally the City. Career prospects within the ISE are good, and this is also an excellent introduction to the world of lobbying.

Benefits include a non-contributory pension, free travel, subsidised meals, BUPA and 23 days' holiday. Please apply with full C.V. to: Michele Crane, Recruitment Officer, The International Stock Exchange, Old Broad Street, London EC2N 1HP.

A market in progress

CRIME
concern

Cracking Crime Together

Crime Concern is the new national organisation launched this week to develop and support local voluntary crime prevention activities. Initially it will be concentrating on Neighbourhood Watch and similar voluntary activity. In the longer term it will be encouraging a wide range of crime prevention initiatives. Central to Crime Concern is the belief that individual active citizens and the private sector have a vital role to play in assisting the police to prevent crime in the community. The Board of Crime Concern now seeks a Chief Executive to develop this challenging work. He/she will head a Westminster-based team of about 20 high-grade staff and will control a substantial budget.

Candidates should have:

- ★ Enthusiasm for the Crime Concern mission
- ★ Proven organisational skills
- ★ The ability and willingness to work with the police, local authorities, the voluntary sector and the business community.

Previous crime prevention experience is NOT essential.

An attractive salary and benefits package will be available to the successful candidate.

Applications to the Chairman, Crime Concern, c/o Assets House, 17 Elvaston Street, London SW1P 2QG by Monday June 13.

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ANOTHER KEY PLAYER...
MANAGER

Earnings £28K OTE + car

Reed Insurance has grown fast. It's become a major force in the highly specialised area of insurance recruitment, through an utterly professional commitment to its marketplace, and an uncompromising determination to become the key player.

Now we need another key player. A Manager who shares the same characteristics as us - ambition, the ability to direct and motivate people on a clear path to success, someone who thrives under pressure.

You'll be a professional with a strong sales/insurance background, responsible for servicing our client

and candidate needs. You'll be based in a new Reed Insurance branch shortly to open on a prestigious site in Cannon Street, EC4, and will actively participate in the branch's future development.

You can look forward to excellent earnings with an attractive basic salary, realistic bonus structure which directly relates success to reward, and a car.

If you're convinced you have the qualities to succeed in this highly pressurised environment, please call or write for an application form to: Reed Insurance, 193 Victoria Street, London SW1 5NE. 01-828 8625

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OUTSKIRTS AND THE HOME COUNTIES

Are you a lively 'outgoing', career minded individual? Having embarked on a career in Accountancy are you now seeking a position that will allow you to utilise your technical knowledge whilst making better use of your excellent interpersonal skills?

As the UK's leading specialist recruitment consultancy with 70 offices worldwide, we can offer early responsibility, an excellent remuneration package based on results rather than length of service, genuine prospects for management in the short term and most of all an environment where new ideas are actively encouraged.

For opportunities in central London contact:
Aileen Williams on 01-436 5511

For opportunities in London Outskirts and Home Counties contact:
Fay Bishop on 0483 64692



Accountancy
Personnel
Aileen Williams on 01 436 5511
Fay Bishop on 0483 64692

BUILDING PRODUCT SALES
£12,500 + car + benefits.

East Sussex & Kent.

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For more details contact Premiere Employment on:

(0442) 231370

(A member of Burns Anderson Group PLC)

STRATEGY
CONSULTANT

A leading consulting company is seeking a consultant to work in their expanding Scandinavian practice.

Candidates must have an MBA from a leading international business school and significant industrial experience, ideally in electrical engineering. Fluency in both English and Swedish is essential, together with a good knowledge of at least one other European language.

The successful candidate will be aged 25-33, have a graduate background in engineering or economics, and an excellent record of academic achievement. Remuneration will reflect the exceptional quality of the chosen candidate.

Applications, in writing, with full curriculum vitae, should be sent to:

Box No. K35
c/o The Times

SALES PERSON
Real Flame at
Parsons Green

Require sales person, 24+ with technical knowledge and management ability. Driving licence essential. Negotiable salary.

Telephone Philip Bennett on:
01-731 5025 for interview.

ADMINISTRATOR
£14-£15,000 25 +

A highly respected and expanding professional Institute based in SW1 requires a Graduate seeking an intellectual and administrative challenge to assist their Secretary.

Total involvement is offered for a self-starter in all aspects of the Secretary's work. Duties will involve day-to-day liaison in all administrative aspects of meetings of Council and Committees and the undertaking of research and project work.

Responsibilities include assisting with the preparation of the Institute Journal and other publications.

Candidates should have excellent written and oral communication skills and the initiative and ability to implement and follow through numerous and varied assignments.

For further details contact Sally Elder.

Carrera

RECRUITMENT ADVISERS 130 REGENT ST. LONDON W1R 5SE TEL: 01-439 3333

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Located in Central London, Need a Telesales person to join our sales team.

Call 01-404 4016, during office hours, for an appointment.

MARKET RESEARCH
£11,500

Our Client, a large industrial and domestic waste management company, are searching for a Market Research Assistant to help define and monitor competitor activity using a Lotus Database system.

You will be someone in their early 20's and either have good 'A' levels with appropriate market research experience, or possess a Diploma in Marketing. Keyboard skills are essential as is the ability to liaise with clients and competitors direct.

For further information on this career opening please call ELAINE.

01-734 9582

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There's nothing soft about Software Marketing

There are very few market sectors which can compare with the pace, rapid development and expansion of the computer hardware market - but one of them is certainly the software market. New application software offerings appear almost daily, and every major manufacturer is aware of the importance of keeping abreast of the latest advances and innovations. None more so than IBM: which is why we're currently expanding our Application Software Marketing team.

The people who join us will be working with numerous IBM marketing and development functions, as well as external software development houses, to devise ways of enhancing existing products or introducing new ones. It's a demanding and multi-faceted role, in which good business acumen is essential, and should be combined with outstanding creative and communication skills. We're looking for men and women with a commercial, technological, or business background, and expertise in marketing, finance or general project management. You'll be someone who can analyse an opportunity - and act

decisively upon it. You should be able to demonstrate an understanding or appreciation of the UK software industry, with broad-based, but not necessarily detailed, technical knowledge.

This is an exciting opportunity to move into a high-profile role in a high-reward industry. As you would expect, we can offer an excellent salary and very attractive package of company benefits to the successful candidates.

To apply, phone Tilly Brennan in our Personnel Office on (0705) 321212, ext. 4387 and ask for an application form. Alternatively write to her at IBM United Kingdom Limited, PO Box 41, North Harbour, Portsmouth, Hants. PO6 3AU.

"I think, therefore IBM."



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MARKETING AND PR EXECUTIVES

Hertfordshire £25,000-30,000 + benefits

Our clients are recognised as one of the country's leading firms of estate agents. A dramatic growth in both turnover and profits can be attributed to the development and effective marketing of a wide range of services, a reputation for quality, and a strong growing network of agents throughout the UK. By working closely with the financial services sector our clients are able to offer a professional "one stop" service to potential buyers.

They now require experienced and professional marketing and PR executives to join a small, committed head office team.

MARKETING MANAGER

The successful candidate will be involved in the development, implementation and control of marketing policy and initiatives at national, regional and subsidiary levels. Managing the marketing function will include responsibility for marketing a strong and positive corporate image, providing functional support to the subsidiaries and driving new product development.

MANAGER, ADVERTISING AND PR

The role will carry specific responsibility for developing an awareness of the corporate image and identity through the implementation of advertising, branding and packaging strategies. This will involve managing a central advertising and PR function and being responsible for the quality and creativity of all advertising campaigns, sales promotions and publicity materials and strengthening press relations.

The roles, whilst different, are closely related to ensure that the objectives and strategy of the functions are complementary. These positions call for skilled and experienced marketing or advertising executives who possess entrepreneurial flair, presence, strategic thinking ability and enthusiasm. Previous experience of the agency industry or of the financial services sector would be an advantage but the group will provide comprehensive product training.

These are key positions that carry with them a negotiable remuneration package which will include attractive base salary, bonus element and other benefits.

Please reply in confidence, enclosing full cv and quoting reference B8532, to Joanna Carr.

KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock

Executive Selection and Search
9 Creed Lane, London EC4V 5BR.Assistant Company Secretary
Property Development Company

c. £22,500 + benefits Central London

Our client has a large and diversified development programme in the City and elsewhere in the U.K. Its other activities include property investment and trading and the provision of property services.

Due to the rapid growth of the business this position is being created to strengthen the Secretarial Department. There will be a wide range of responsibilities including maintaining statutory records and registers for over 100 subsidiary companies using computerised systems, acting as Company Secretary to several companies, assistance in servicing Board Meetings and a variety of legal and secretarial duties relating to project control.

You should be a Chartered Secretary or finalist with experience in property and corporate matters. In addition you will be energetic and motivated with excellent communication skills and enjoy working in a fast moving environment.

The remuneration package is negotiable as indicated and will include a pension scheme and other benefits.

Please write - in confidence - to Robert Pink, ref. A.82003.

MSL Chartered Secretary, 32 Aybrook Street, London W1M 3JL.

MSL Chartered Secretary

MARKETING MANAGER

Slough - The Thames Valley College of Higher Education - is undertaking a dynamic programme of change in preparation for the corporate status it will enjoy after March 1989. A key element in this is the College's marketing services facility.

The College is now gearing for major new market and product initiatives designed to accelerate growth and national status and requires a Marketing Manager to spearhead this strategy.

Reporting to the Assistant Director, you'll be responsible for the development and implementation of marketing strategies in support of the corporate objectives.

The position represents a real opportunity to initiate exciting changes at the College - changes which will break the traditional educational mould. To undertake this challenge you'll need to demonstrate significant marketing experience combined with the necessary energy and drive to move the organisation forward into its new market-led future.

The Thames Valley College

For more information, please contact:

The Staffing Officer,
Slough - The Thames Valley
College of Higher Education,
Wellington Street, Slough,
Berks SL1 1YG.
Tel: 0753 34585 ext. 213/285.

Interviews will be held in June.

HAVE YOU MANAGEMENT POTENTIAL?

FPS (Management) Ltd, one of the leading firms of financial advisors in the U.K. are looking for

4 TRAINEE MANAGERS

(Aged 22+) to join our successful and expanding operation. Our clients, who are individuals and companies, benefit from our specialist advice on all aspects of personal and business finance including taxation, mortgages, pensions and insurance.

We require professional ambitious self-motivated individuals who, after an initial period, will join our management team in our continued expansion.

For further details of this superb opportunity to develop your career within a rapidly expanding company, and to receive the benefits of an exciting and rewarding industry, please contact HUGH JORY on 01-263-8040.



WOULD YOU FIT INTO FINANCE?

The people we're looking for are go-ahead, ambitious young people who enjoy achieving and achieving fast.

We're looking for a determined men and women aged 21-40 to join a highly professional team providing specialist advice on all aspects of personal business finance.

If you want to take advantage of a superb career opportunity leading to management after an initial period, and think you'd fit into finance, simply phone Keith Burton on

01-436 9622

A long-established City company requires a Marketing Executive with a good command of English, and comprehensive experience of the aviation market in Japan in particular, to source U.K. and European products for export to Japan.

The successful candidate will be well-versed in Japanese trading & marketing practices, conventions and etiquette, and will be fluent in both spoken and written Japanese. He or she will be aged between 25-35 years, and will, ideally, hold a current recognised pilot's licence.

All enquiries should be addressed to Reply to BOX 105.

BUSINESS MANAGER
SUNNINGDALE

CARE HOMES (UK) PLC is a British private healthcare company providing services for the care of the elderly and rehabilitation at its prestigious new 74-bed Nursing Home DORNEY HOUSE positioned next to Sunningdale Golf Course.

Applications are invited for the position of BUSINESS MANAGER from motivated enthusiastic people with the experience to assist in the development of Dorney House as a focal point for care in the local community.

The successful candidate will be expected to work alongside the Manager and have prime responsibility for internal financial control, ensuring the commercial success of the Nursing Home, through effective marketing and the management of support services. Applications in writing, with detailed C.V. should be sent to:

The Executive Directors
Aims Homes Limited
Parkway House, Sheen Lane,
London SW14 8LS

OFFICE MANAGER
PUBLISHERS: WC1

Reporting to the Admin. Director of a progressive company, you will have the day to day responsibility for a full range of supervisory and admin functions.

This is a responsible, varied and challenging opportunity. Aged 30+, you will need to be energetic, committed, able to work on your own initiative, and communicate well. 5 years relevant experience desirable.

Please send full C.V. and current salary to:

Fran Ryba, Personnel Officer,
Random House U.K. Ltd,
30/32 Bedford Square,
London WC1B 3SG

GRADUATES -
A CAREER IN
FINANCE

We are a leading firm of finance consultants marketing commercial finance and venture capital through professional intermediaries. To further our reorganisation programme, we are looking for a trainee, preferably a graduate in Business Studies, who wishes to develop his/her career within an expanding company in a growing industry.

Initially, the responsibilities will be to assist your senior colleagues in analysing financial transactions, advise our clients accordingly and to successfully manage and negotiate our services with our clients and business associates.

The successful applicant must be self-motivated and ambitious and should be able to show a high degree of initiative.

Please send a full C.V. with recent photograph to:

Miss S Hills
A S CONSULTANTS (BROKERS) LIMITED
24 Red Lion Street, London, WC1E 4SA

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COMPUTERS W.1 to £24,000
Programmers, analysts and project leaders required.

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Qualified/part qualified chartered accountants for well established company.

DIVISIONAL MANAGER KENT £15,000+
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CHEFS DE PARTIE and BLACK JACK ENGLISH ROULETTE PUNTO BANCO CROUPIERS

Required for French Casino due to reopen shortly. Send handwritten letter with detailed curriculum vitae for application to

Mr J. Pierre Goussard,
Casino De La Charlevalle-Casino,
30240 Salsigne, FRANCE

BLACK HORSE AGENCIES
Gascoigne-Pees

An exciting opportunity has arisen within Black Horse Agencies Gascoigne-Pees Lettings and Management Department in Chelsea SW1. We require an experienced person to head our busy and energetic team handling good quality estate within modern offices. Applicants should be aged 25-35 years, possess secretarial skills and have the determination to succeed. In return, a good salary package is offered, plus a quality company car.

Tel: Emma Garney
01-730 8882

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Operations
Directors

MD Designate

c£40,000 plus car North

A well respected and expanding British packaging group is strengthening its management, by appointing general managers to run their volume manufacturing businesses, recently formed into independent operating divisions. Each position has the full range of general management responsibility and success will lead to appointment as divisional Managing Director, in the near future.

The new operations are a result of vigorous and successful recent growth organically and by acquisition, to business units in the £40m-£80m region and are part of a diversification strategy for the Group.

Candidates aged 35-50, must already have had some experience of sales and commercial activity as well as volume manufacturing experience in a unionised environment. They should be graduate level and able to demonstrate their ability to move a business forward in volume and profitability.

Please write with full details to Michael Carr, ref. A 16135

MSL International (UK) Ltd, 32 Aybrook Street, London W1M 3JL.

Careers in Europe, the Americas, Australia and New Zealand.

MSL International

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CarnaudJust Jump
over the Channel

The CARNAUD-group is the European leader in the manufacture of film, cans and bottles for the food, health and packing industries.

KERPLAS-Normandie situated in DIEPPE on the sea-side is our branch specialising in the production of plastic bottles for pharmaceutical products, cosmetics and perfumes.

Recent expansion urges us to seek:

a QUALITY-CONTROL TECHNICIAN (ref. 58 24101 A/T) for production mastering (preparation of samples, physical and chemical tests, analysis reports...), Good knowledge in plastics and two to three years experience in control laboratory are necessary.

a PLASTICS TECHNICIAN (ref. 58 24101 b/T) for injection blowmoulding having received a specific training on this technique and three years experience in similar industry.

a SENIOR TECHNICIAN (ref. 58 1803 T) for production in plastic bottles decoration workshop, responsible for electrical servicing of machines and of decoration tools, management of the fitters team, and in charge of carrying out production programmes. Having a mechanical or electro-mechanical degree, and six to ten years experience within such an industry, particularly advised in extrusion, injection, blowing and decoration on plastic bottles.

In all cases, salaries would be competitive to encourage the suitably qualified applicants to join our organisation. Applications should be made in English or in French to our Consultant, quoting the appropriate reference if, please to:



EQUIPES ET CARRIERES

EQUIPES ET CARRIERES - 4, rue de la Bienfaisance 75008 PARIS FRANCE

01-481 4481

GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

01-481 4481

Computer Sales Professionals

Sales Executives OTE £35,000

Senior Sales Executives OTE £50-55,000

In 1977 our client, Personal Computers plc, were pioneering their way into the Micro Computer Industry. In 1988 they're not only one of the largest IBM dealers in the country but can boast the IBM Quality Dealer Award three years running and were voted IBM Quality Dealer of the Year for 1986. This recognises Personal Computers plc as the most capable supplier of IBM PC equipment and services in the UK.

Their success is due to their commitment to providing a quality service and support second to none. They offer a total solutions package from consultancy, application development, pre and post sales support through to training, hot-line support and engineering. Having more than doubled turnover last year and on target to do the same again, the increased volume of business has provided a need to recruit 12 additional Sales Professionals, ranging from Sales Executives to Senior Sales Executives, for 3 key areas of business.

* Corporate Accounts * Banking and Financial Sector
* Public Sector

With an excellent sales career structure that enhances your abilities, and a first class support framework to assist you, together with the name of Personal Computers plc to open doors - winning new business is assured. You will be well rewarded with a basic salary ranging from £17K to £25K with an achievable OTE of between £35-55K. For all positions an in-depth knowledge of the market is

Quality & Quantity

Who says
you can't have both?

Personal Computers plc

preferable together with excellent communication skills and business acumen. Highly motivated you'll have a successful background in either the computer, or information technology area and will be more than capable of selling not only hardware/software but also the comprehensive range of services offered by Personal Computers.

Candidates who can demonstrate relevant market knowledge in capital equipment sales, will be considered. Your expertise and drive will enable our clients to meet the growing demands of their customers and with the help of one of the largest network and communication support teams you'll find that the targets they set are more than attainable.

Trainees £12,000

In addition we are looking to recruit 4 trainees of graduate calibre or with previous sales experience who are looking for their first step into computer sales. Starting at £12,000 the opportunities, support and training provided will prove invaluable and enable you to progress quickly and effectively along a very challenging career path.

So, if you're looking to make an impact and for the opportunity to join a dynamic team, this is your chance!

To embark upon a fast moving and rewarding career contact our advising consultant Debbie Stubbs during office hours on 01-242 9356.

Alternatively, send your CV to her at the address below.

01-242 9356 24 hour answering service

occ sales personnel

Recruitment Consultants, Crown House, 121 Ringsway, London WC2B 6PA.



Senior Corporate Planner £16,000

The International Wool Secretariat is a worldwide marketing organisation that works to increase demand for wool through industry support and consumer promotion programmes. Financed by wool producers, IWS has branches in over 30 countries and has built the Woolmark into a prestigious, internationally recognised trademark.

The success of IWS activities depends heavily on close monitoring of economic and market trends and the development and timely introduction of policy initiatives. We now seek an additional Senior Corporate Planner to play an important role in environmental analysis and strategic planning.

The successful candidate will join an established, professional team based in our central London HQ, working for the IWS senior management group as well as with operational management both in the UK and overseas.

A good honours degree in economics is essential, preferably with subsidiary qualifications in econometrics or statistics. You must also have 2/3 years' post-graduate experience in business planning, market analysis or resource allocation in a commercial environment. Equally important are a mature, professional approach, first-class communication skills and the ability to work under pressure.

The starting salary will be at least £16,000 and perhaps higher for an exceptionally well-qualified candidate. Future pay will be linked to performance. Benefits including free medical insurance conform to good modern practice.

Interested? Please write briefly enclosing a cv to:
The Personnel Manager,
International Wool Secretariat,
Carlton Gardens, London SW1Y 5AE



CATCH 22

Q. How can I break into computer sales without computer sales experience?

A. Via Apple Computer (UK) Limited, one of THE major names in personal computing.

Apple Computer are currently recruiting FIELD SALES EXECUTIVES on behalf of their National Dealer Network. You will start your new career on a comprehensive two week residential training course covering all aspects of computers and computer sales techniques, following which you will take up an appointment with one of Apple's qualified dealers.

Candidates will be 23-35, well educated and must have at least 18 months sales experience, preferably in a business to business environment. A knowledge of computing would be an advantage but is not essential. Vacancies exist nationally with emphasis on the following regions:- London and Home Counties, Thames Valley, Hants, Norwich, S West, E and W Midlands, N West, Yorks, N East and Scotland.

A basic salary negotiable between £10-£12,000 (dependent upon experience and location) plus incentive will give expected on target earnings of £18-£20,000+. A car is also supplied.

Seize this opportunity to break into the growth computer sales market. Phone or write with full CV to Graham Langley quoting Ref: 113

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If you are aged under 55, with integrity, dedication and self-assurance, you could have another equally successful career ahead of you.

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To launch your second career talk to:

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Arthur Vann (Bristol) 0272 734062
Nigel Cochrane (Cardiff) 0222 394711
Mike Clink (Cheltenham) 0242 516390
Ann Brett (Exeter) 0392 217555
John Stafford (N. London) 0923 229241
Keith Agnew (S. London) 01-686 6111
Ian McKenzie (Sussex) 0903 285133
Peter Stoner (Windsor) 0753 859019 or write to:
Mrs S. Roberts, Hill Samuel Investment Services,
NLA Tower, 12-16 Addiscombe Road, Croydon
CR9 6BP.

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

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STRATEGY CONSULTANT

A leading consulting company is seeking a consultant to work in their expanding European practice.

Candidates must have an MBA from a leading international business school and significant industrial experience, ideally in the telecommunications market. It would be useful if this experience were in the field of business planning.

The successful candidate will be aged 26-33, have a graduate background in marketing, and an excellent record of academic achievement. Remuneration will reflect the exceptional quality of the chosen candidate.

Applications, in writing, with full curriculum vitae, should be sent to:

Box No. K29
c/o The Times

RADIOLOGIST

The Hospitals of SAULT STE MARIE, ONTARIO CANADA are actively recruiting candidates for a Radiologist vacancy to provide complete diagnostic imaging services. Sault Ste. Marie is ideally located in the centre of the Great Lakes in Northern Ontario with approximately 120,000 residents of community and surrounding district.

The successful applicant will provide the following range of services: General Radiological Procedures, Ultrasound, Angiography, Mammography, and CT Scanning.

Applications are welcome from Physicians with a Canadian Fellowship to meet our immediate needs and from Physicians interested in immigrating to Canada with a United Kingdom Fellowship to fulfill our long term goals.

A representative of both hospitals will be in the United Kingdom during the week of June 6-10, 1988. Inquiries should be directed to the following before June 10, 1988.

NAS - WBH Advertising
Alliance House
63 St. Martin's Lane
London, England
WC2N 4JX

In addition, enquiries may be forwarded directly to:

Joint Hospital Radiology
Search Committee
c/o General Hospital
941 Queen Street East,
SAULT STE MARIE, ON
CANADA
P6A 2B8

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WATER AUTHORITIES ASSOCIATION POLICY ASSISTANT -

£13,000
(Including London Weighting)

We are looking for a second Policy Assistant to work in the Secretariat of the Water Authorities Association - the central representative and coordinating body for the ten water authorities in England and Wales.

The successful applicant will join a small team covering a wide range of issues affecting the water authorities. The person appointed will be responsible for progress of business through the Association's committees and groups and related administration. Flexibility and willingness to become involved in many aspects of current business are essential. The duties will include research, contributions to policy papers, servicing of meetings, and liaison with Government and other interests.

Candidates should be graduates, or hold a relevant professional qualification. Preferred age twenties or early thirties. Ideally with previous experience of work of this kind. But intelligence, personality and ability to work cheerfully under pressure are the prime requirements.

Location Central London. Good working conditions, contributory pension scheme available.

Applicants should write with a detailed CV and a day time telephone number to:

Tony Ellis
Administration Officer,
Water Authorities Association,
1 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9BT

Closing Date: Monday, 13 June 1988.

APPEALS SYSTEMS MANAGER

(North London)
Up to £14,675 including
London Weighting

NCH is a major Christian-based charity helping children and families throughout the Country. Only with continuing and increasing voluntary financial support can we plan and develop long-term projects for children whose future depends on our work.

Managing the office staff and administration vital to our fund-raising efforts involves the use and improvement of both computerised and manual systems. You will play a major role in the continuing development of our direct mail appeals programme, maintaining our supporter database and contact with our donors.

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Interested? Please contact Fiona Fletcher for further information and an application form on 01-226 2033 at the Personnel Office, 85 Highbury Park, London N5 1UD. Closing date: 9.6.88. NCH is a Christian based organisation.

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SYSTEM/3X TECHNICAL CONSULTANTS

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MARKETING SPECIALIST

£20,000 - £25,000

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Application Consultants must have in depth experience in manufacturing, distribution or accounting applications.

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System Software Associates, Inc.

The Authors of

BPCS

SSA

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CONFERENCE ADVISER

Wilton House Conference Centre, near Steyning in West Sussex, is the home of the Wilton Park International conferences. Open to high-level participants from all over the world, the conferences provide a forum for the exchange of views on a wide range of international and comparative national issues under the leadership of the Wilton Park academic staff. One post of Conference Adviser is now to be filled. Appointment will be for a period of 3 years initially, with the possibility of extension or permanence.

You would be responsible for developing themes and organising conference programmes; inviting speakers, chairing plenary sessions and discussion groups, writing conference reports, and contributing intellectually, administratively, and socially to the success of the meetings. Preferably aged at least 30, you must have a degree with first or second class honours, or an equivalent or higher qualification, preferably.

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In one of the social sciences; an enthusiastic interest in international affairs and in political, economic, and social issues; several years postgraduate experience in relevant academic work, public service, or the private sector; and must be a good communicator. A good knowledge of foreign languages and experience in social hosting at conferences are desirable. Some overseas visits may be required.

Salary £15,030 rising to £20,290 (under review). Starting salary may be above the minimum. Relocation expenses may be available.

For further details and an application form (to be returned by 24 June 1988) write to Civil Service Commission, Alencon Link, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 1JB, or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 468551 (answering service operates outside office hours).

Please quote ref: G/7588.

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Successful applicants are likely to have an MBA qualification or a business school background and some years experience in management or consultancy. Expertise in a relevant specialist area such as corporate finance, strategy, marketing or organisational behaviour would be a distinct asset. There is a high premium on general face-to-face social skills as well as particular educational or consultancy skills. Successful candidates will be expected to be creative, resourceful and self-motivating.
Candidates must be willing to travel and work away from base since residential courses are held in many different locations, throughout the UK and overseas.

Please reply with full CV to László Hancock
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EDITORIAL GROUP requires experienced journalists for AUTOMOBILE, MOTORCYCLE, CURRENT AFFAIRS MAGAZINES. SEND FULL CV + PHOTO to: E.A.S.A. PUBLICATIONS, 25 BRYANTWOOD ROAD, LONDON N7 7BE.

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Opportunities have now arisen to head teams at a number of our new offices in London and the Home Counties for experienced and highly talented people, who will be responsible for servicing our candidate and client needs and sharing responsibility for their branch's future development.

Successful applicants will possess a strong determined character and the desire to utilise entrepreneurial skills.

You can look forward to excellent rewards with an attractive basic salary, realistic bonus structure and company car.

Please telephone 01-828 8625 or write enclosing your CV to Hilary Chernack, Divisional Office, 193 Victoria Street, London SW1E 5NE

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Circa £25,000

Home Counties - based in Surbiton
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Salary will be circa £25,000 plus company car and generous commission scheme together with generous Group benefits.

Applicants (both male and female) should write in the first instance including a full CV, to: Sandy MacGill, Sales & Marketing Director



Century Factors Ltd, Southbrook House, 25 Bartholomew Street, Newbury, Berkshire RG14 5LL
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Your aim will be to negotiate with significant customers within the finance, banking and retail arena, for sales of the company's product - currently the market leader in North America.

With an already established base this side of the Atlantic, they plan to be equally successful in Europe and U.K. Working from London, you should thus easily achieve your on target earnings of -

£40,000 p.a.

comprising a very high basic salary and a guaranteed commission rate.

For more reasons why you should join, please contact:-

Mrs Judy Wright
T.V.C.A. Ltd, Computer Appointments
Terminal House, Station Approach,
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Tel: Watton on Thames
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We are now actively seeking experienced residential and commercial property negotiators for a number of positions and secure you of strict confidence.

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COLLEGE OF ESTATE MANAGEMENT WHITEKNIGHTS READING RG6 2AW

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The College, which has been situated at the University of Reading since 1972, is the leading international body associated with teaching for the professions of the land. The principal activities of the tutors are in developing study material for distance taught students, conducting face-to-face teaching at centres in the UK, the Republic of Ireland and the Far East, running short courses for qualified practitioners and undertaking research.

Tutor in Engineering Services
The tutor in Engineering Services will need to take responsibility for all engineering aspects (civil, structural, mechanical and electrical) although his/her own specialisation will probably lie in only one or two of these areas. The tutor in Engineering Services will be expected to work particularly closely with the tutors in Building Surveying and Building Technology in developing the technology base of the College's activities. Applicants for the post should hold a first degree as well as membership of relevant professional bodies.

Tutor in Architecture
The tutor in Architecture will need to take responsibility for the design aspects of the College's work. The tutor will work closely with the tutors in Building Surveying, Building Technology and Planning in developing existing courses and promoting new activities in architecture-related subjects. It is probable that the tutor will contribute to the in-house courses for qualified practitioners that the College runs, as well as being involved in a new initiative in Quality Assurance. Applicants for the post should hold a first degree as well as membership of the RIBA.

Tutor in Finance and Investment
The tutor in Finance and Investment will be expected to develop the College's activities in this area. He/she will be specifically involved with the post-qualification diplomas in Property Investment and Business Management, working closely with the tutors in Valuation and Economics. There will be involvement with other post-qualification courses, both for the clients attending in-house training sessions as well as those forming part of a formal Diploma. Applicants for the post should hold a first degree as well as membership of a relevant professional body.

Tutor in Law
The tutor in Law will be involved in all aspects of teaching at both pre-qualification and post-qualification levels and will be required to contribute to the College's programme of in-house courses for qualified practitioners. Applicants should hold at least a first degree in Law and should have some experience in practice and/or teaching.

Salary within the range of £12,500 - £18,500 according to age and experience. Annual holiday: 36 days per year including public holidays, USS and BUPA. Closing date for applications: 25 June 1988.

For further details and an application form, please contact Mrs P Reynolds on (0734) 861101.

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Take the first steps by contacting Gary Bassett or Peter Richards on 01 637 7200 (London & Home Counties). Allied Dunbar plc is an equal opportunities Group.

01-481 4481

BANKING & ACCOUNTANCY

01-481 4481

NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR FINANCE SPECIALISTS

Head of Finance (£25,000 - £21,500/Bar £30,000)
Chief Accountant (£20,000 - £22,500/Bar £25,000)
Assistant Chief Accountant (PO41-44: £15,291 - £17,154)
Systems Accountant (PO1c/E: £13,449 - £15,921)
Financial Services Accountant (PO46-49: £17,973 - £19,194)
Payroll Manager (SO2: £12,432 - £13,173)

Sheffield City Polytechnic is embarking on an exciting period of change. Next year we become an independent corporation with a budget of £40m and a staff of over 2,000 and we need top flight professionals to join our team of financial managers who are introducing new systems and in an expanding department which is taking over from the Local Authority responsibility for the Polytechnic's financial management.

Head of Finance

As Head of Finance you will be responsible for the stewardship of the Polytechnic's funds and for the effectiveness of the Finance Department and its systems. You will advise on and implement our financial strategy, manage our investment programme, help maintain our income and make sure our systems support the work of the Polytechnic and its associated companies.

Accountancy Section

Our Chief Accountant and Assistant Chief Accountants will develop an effective Accountancy Division, give advice on and implement our budgetary policies, develop and maintain efficient budgeting, financial management, monitoring and control systems, make sure our financial information systems are appropriate and effective, advise on value for money improvements, and produce the Polytechnic's annual budget and accounts.

As our Systems Accountant you will have full responsibility for identifying the needs of staff who use our financial systems and for making sure their needs are met. You will oversee data collection procedures, design reporting requirements, develop a coding system, specify security and access arrangements and develop training programmes for finance and other staff.

Financial Services

As our Financial Services Accountant you will develop our Financial Services Division. You will be responsible for cash flow management, debt management, investment, insurance, cash collection and banking arrangements, maintaining and control systems within the Division and for advice on value for money improvements.

Payroll

As our Payroll Manager you will take over from the Local Authority responsibility for the prompt payment of our 2,000 plus employees. You will advise on tax and statutory requirements, liaise with our payroll bureau, make sure we handle efficiently all deductions and local adjustments and deal with all payroll enquiries and information.

Applicants for all posts should be professionally qualified. Applicants for the Head of Finance, Chief Accountant and Financial Services Accountant should have substantial experience at a senior level.

Application forms and further details are available from The Personnel Department, Sheffield City Polytechnic, Halfords House, Fitzalan Square, Sheffield S1 2BB. Telephone (0424) 229911 Ext 2665. The closing date for applications is 4 June 1988.

Sheffield City Polytechnic

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This trouble shooting role involves substantial international travel to assist subsidiaries with systems implementation and improvement and undertake project work. The requirement is for an outgoing confident innovator capable of dealing at senior director level. The successful candidate will be a young ACA with two years pge within a multinational. Language skills would be an asset.

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Our client, a small but growing music business, offers an exciting opportunity to a young qualified accountant.

You should be able to cope with all aspects of financial control and have the interpersonal skills necessary to deal direct with the performers.

This interesting and varied role will expand as the company grows and will suit an accountant with up to about 12 months pge.

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significant contributions both to the further
development of our computer-based financial
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The appointment calls for a proven achiever, whose
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An attractive salary and comprehensive benefits
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The remuneration and benefits
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Please write to:
Mr D S Chitty, BP Petroleum Development Ltd,
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The Taxation Division of Michael Page Group Plc has an enviable
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range from small tax orientated practices to major international
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- * The principles of interview technique.
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- * The range of services offered by Michael Page.

Each seminar will be free, without obligation, and informal. For
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credit arrangements, and ensuring those arrangements are honoured.

We would welcome applications from experienced executives,
particularly, although not exclusively, from banking or broking with
private client and credit experience. Salary and benefits will reflect the
seniority of this position.

Applicants are asked to apply in writing enclosing their C.V. to: Charles
Mead, Personnel Director, Sotheby's, 34-35 New Bond Street, London
W1A 2AA.

INSTITUTE OF NEUROLOGY FINANCE OFFICER

Applications are invited from qualified accountants
for the post of Finance Officer to this postgraduate
Medical School of the University of London. The
Institute together with its sister hospital, The
National Hospitals for Nervous Diseases, provides
the leading centre for postgraduate training and
research into neurology and allied clinical and basic
neuro-science in the United Kingdom.

Previous experience in university, medical school or
higher education institutions would be an
advantage.
Salary by negotiation, but not less than £21,000 per
annum. Applications should be addressed to the
Secretary, Institute of Neurology, The National
Hospital, Queen Square, London WC1N 3BG to
arrive no later than 20 June 1988, from whom
further particulars are available (01-537 3611 ext
4137).

ACCOUNTANT £15,000 + CAR

Our client is looking for an accountant (preferably in
his/her mid twenties/early thirties) with good commun-
icative skills. Certain routine bookkeeping tasks will be
required. The successful applicant will need to have
computer experience, and have been involved in the
installation of a computer system.

The client is located in the Walthamstow area.
Applications should be made in writing with full C.V.
(quoting reference number AKL/E10) to:-

A.K. Lester
H.W. Fisher & Co
Chartered Accountants
Acre House
69/76 Long Acre
London WC2E 9JW

Divine Law to spark Hills double

By Mandarin (Michael Phillips)

Barry Hills looks the trainer to follow today at Brighton where Divine Law and Musical Charm, the Manton trainer's only two runners, go to post well fancied.

Both are beautifully bred three-year-old fillies who acquired themselves well at a higher level last year without actually managing to win.

Divine Law, my selection for the Castor Maiden Stakes, was named good enough to contest the group three Waterford Handicap at Goodwood as a two-year-old.

The fact that she could finish only fourth behind Obeah, Intimate Guest, and Air For The Top matters not. For she was up against really good fillies that day as indeed she was at Newbury later in

the season when she finished a close fourth in the Stables, Stud and Farm Stakes.

While conceding that Manton's filly will not be a push-over this afternoon if he runs as well as he did at Nottingham in April when he was beaten a length by Jormi, I still feel that today's race represents a considerable drop in class for Divine Law who is my pick.

Musical Charm approaches the Coomes Senior Citizens Graduation Stakes with equally good credentials having been placed in both her races at Sandown as a two-year-old.

Her race today, though, looks the tougher assignment now that Adabas, White Wash and Mahib have also stood the ground. However, I am encouraged to believe that Musical Charm will make

telling use of her maiden's allowance.

Straight Gold, my selection for the Coomes Fillies Handicap, has run well enough in similar races at Epsom and Bath already this season to suggest that she should be knocking at the door. It is my contention that today's distance of a mile will suit her better than the 1¼ miles over which she was beaten last time.

A glance at her pedigree supports the view because she is by the sprinter Vaigly Great and out of a mare by Blast who was a miler.

At Catford, Mick Ryan gives Marbella Silks his fourth race in 20 days in the Cowies BMW Handicap. Today's race closed on May 4 with a winner after that day incurring only a 7lb penalty.

Marbella Silks has won twice in the meantime, first at Lingfield and then again at Brighton. In between he was beaten a short head in a competitive contest at Sandown by Proud And Keen, who then won again at Goodwood.

Furthermore the Newmarket trainer is able to reduce the gelding's weight by claiming 5lb with that good apprentice Gary Bardwell. So it is easy to see why Ryan is making hay with this rapidly-improving sprinter.

Effervescent ran well enough over six furlongs at Goodwood last week to suggest that he would do even better when confronted with a slightly longer race.

Now Geoff Lewis's lightly-raced three-year-old can confirm that impression by winning the Mucker Maiden Stakes over seven furlongs.

Night Lady can continue trainer Jack Berry's fine start to the season by winning the Grinton Stakes. Before she contested her first race at Warwick just over three weeks ago, racebook gossip had it that her race would be won by one of Bill O'Gorman's first two-year-olds, Komboia.

That filly duly started a short-priced favourite. In the race itself, though, it was Night Lady who always had the upper hand and I suspect that the form is quite useful.

Saynete, who was beaten by Sue Semard on his debut at Wolverhampton, can thwart Berry's chance of winning the EBF Stapleton Maiden Stakes with Sandown Cotton.

Finally, Martin Pike looks poised to improve his record-breaking tally still further by winning at his local Taunton track with Shetley's Lady (6.0), Just Cheeky (6.30) and Snowdowns (8.0).

Reid steps in for ride on Kefiah in Derby

Ray Cochran, Luca Cumani's jockey, has been chosen to ride Kefiah in the Derby at Epsom on Wednesday (Michael Seely writes).

The Newmarket trainer has therefore booked John Reid to contest Kefiah, who finished runner-up to Red Glow in the Mecca-Dante Stakes at York.

Commenting on Cochran's decision, Cumani said: "It can't have been an easy decision for Ray. They are both good horses and we've never worked together."

Earlier in the morning both Kefiah and Kefiah had underlined the trainer's point. Kefiah won the Mecca-Dante Stakes at York on Wednesday and Kefiah won the Mecca-Dante Stakes at York on Wednesday.

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Eddery confident after sparkling Red Glow gallop

By Michael Seely, Racing Correspondent

A spectacular left-handed gallop over 11 furlongs by Red Glow on the Limerkins at Newmarket yesterday morning has convinced Pat Eddery that the Mecca-Dante Stakes winner is in the same class as Golden Fleece, the horse the jockey rode to victory in the Derby in 1982.

"We went downhill and round bends," he said, "and Red Glow was a real beast on the bridge. It was the best bit of work I've ridden before a Derby since Golden Fleece."

Since Pentland finished third in the Derby in 1972, Eddery has ridden nine other horses to finish in the first four in the Derby. And Geoffrey Wragg, who will be attempting to win his second Derby with Red Glow, was equally impressed. "You can say I wasn't disappointed," commented the trainer with a smile. "Pat said he just liked a Rolls Royce."

Realistically, Red Glow could hardly have done less than to have accelerated smoothly clear of Mill Plantation and Pipped. But the fact that Mill Plantation has never looked better in his nine years than when winning his only two races this season and that Pipped won valuable handicaps at Ascot and Haydock last year before finishing second in the Derby in the Ebor, gives a further boost to the value of this filly.

As George Robinson, our local correspondent, commented: "You won't see a better Derby filly than that."

Red Glow has been backed down to favouritism since sprinting past Kefiah and Glacial Storm at York and the indecisive decision left by this ended the favourite's price to 11-4. They then go to 4-1 Unfawn, 13-2 Doyoun, 7-1 Chamer and 13-2 Doyoun.

Ladbrokes still have Red Glow at 3-1, but have shortened Doyoun, Kefiah and Glacial Storm to 5-1, 4-1, and 20-1 respectively. Glacial Storm, who finished third in Red Glow at York, was laid to lose £75,000 in a single bet at 25-1. Mecca make Doyoun 5-1 from 7-1.

Unfawn obviously has the potential to improve a lot, though he hasn't seen a better Derby filly than that."

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BRIGHTON Selections

By Our Newmarket Correspondent

2.00 Bally Brave
2.30 DIVINE LAW (nap)
3.00 Straight Gold
3.30 Dublin Dragon
4.00 Musical Charm
4.30 Pharaoh Blue

By Michael Seely
3.00 Fille D'Esprit, 4.00 Adabas.

Going: firm Draw: 5-6f, low numbers best

2.0 WALLY COOMES HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,465; 5f) (12 runners)

1 (1) 0040-00 ERIS EXPRESS 10 (J Puddy) F Durr 5-7 G Stacey 20
2 (2) 230-200 WARRING STATES 23 (J Puddy) F Durr 5-7 G Stacey 20
3 (3) 200-00 UP THE HOP 14 (J Puddy) F Durr 5-7 G Stacey 20
4 (4) 000-00 VERY SPECIAL LADY 10 (J Puddy) F Durr 5-7 G Stacey 20
5 (5) 120-00 SLEEP EASY 10 (J Puddy) F Durr 5-7 G Stacey 20
6 (6) 00-000 CHAIN SHOT 10 (J Puddy) F Durr 5-7 G Stacey 20
7 (7) 00-000 CHAIN SHOT 10 (J Puddy) F Durr 5-7 G Stacey 20
8 (8) 00-000 CHAIN SHOT 10 (J Puddy) F Durr 5-7 G Stacey 20
9 (9) 00-000 CHAIN SHOT 10 (J Puddy) F Durr 5-7 G Stacey 20
10 (10) 00-000 CHAIN SHOT 10 (J Puddy) F Durr 5-7 G Stacey 20
11 (11) 00-000 CHAIN SHOT 10 (J Puddy) F Durr 5-7 G Stacey 20
12 (12) 00-000 CHAIN SHOT 10 (J Puddy) F Durr 5-7 G Stacey 20

Longhairs: Scoring: 2-3. Betting: 2-3 Very Special Lady, 5-1 Warring States, 7-1 Bally Brave, 6-1 Warring States, 10-1 Tiers Wood, 10-1 Park View, 10-1 Park View, 10-1 Park View.

1987: WARRING STATES 2-3 Very Special Lady, 5-1 Warring States, 7-1 Bally Brave, 6-1 Warring States, 10-1 Tiers Wood, 10-1 Park View, 10-1 Park View, 10-1 Park View.

2.30 CATFORD MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O: £256; 1m 2f) (7 runners)

1 (1) 00-000 CHAIN SHOT 10 (J Puddy) F Durr 5-7 G Stacey 20
2 (2) 230-200 WARRING STATES 23 (J Puddy) F Durr 5-7 G Stacey 20
3 (3) 200-00 UP THE HOP 14 (J Puddy) F Durr 5-7 G Stacey 20
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Longhairs: Scoring: 2-3. Betting: 2-3 Very Special Lady, 5-1 Warring States, 7-1 Bally Brave, 6-1 Warring States, 10-1 Tiers Wood, 10-1 Park View, 10-1 Park View, 10-1 Park View.

1987: WARRING STATES 2-3 Very Special Lady, 5-1 Warring States, 7-1 Bally Brave, 6-1 Warring States, 10-1 Tiers Wood, 10-1 Park View, 10-1 Park View, 10-1 Park View.

3.0 COOMES FILLIES HANDICAP (25-40; 1m) (9 runners)

1 (1) 00-000 CHAIN SHOT 10 (J Puddy) F Durr 5-7 G Stacey 20
2 (2) 230-200 WARRING STATES 23 (J Puddy) F Durr 5-7 G Stacey 20
3 (3) 200-00 UP THE HOP 14 (J Puddy) F Durr 5-7 G Stacey 20
4 (4) 000-00 VERY SPECIAL LADY 10 (J Puddy) F Durr 5-7 G Stacey 20
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6 (6) 00-000 CHAIN SHOT 10 (J Puddy) F Durr 5-7 G Stacey 20
7 (7) 00-000 CHAIN SHOT 10 (J Puddy) F Durr 5-7 G Stacey 20

Longhairs: Scoring: 2-3. Betting: 2-3 Very Special Lady, 5-1 Warring States, 7-1 Bally Brave, 6-1 Warring States, 10-1 Tiers Wood, 10-1 Park View, 10-1 Park View, 10-1 Park View.

1987: WARRING STATES 2-3 Very Special Lady, 5-1 Warring States, 7-1 Bally Brave, 6-1 Warring States, 10-1 Tiers Wood, 10-1 Park View, 10-1 Park View, 10-1 Park View.

FORM: WARRING STATES (2-3) Very Special Lady, 5-1 Warring States, 7-1 Bally Brave, 6-1 Warring States, 10-1 Tiers Wood, 10-1 Park View, 10-1 Park View, 10-1 Park View.

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3.30 COOMES SELLING STAKES (2-Y-O: £275; 5f) (6 runners)

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Network of courses under PGA umbrella

By Mitchell Platts
Golf Correspondent

The Co-op, once regarded as the street-corner grocery shop, is to provide five sites in England and Scotland for a £150 million golf course development scheme involving the PGA European Tour.

Whitco England Ltd, a joint development company incorporating the Co-operative Wholesale Society and Alfred McAlpine Construction, has joined forces with the PGA European Tour Properties, a freshly created subsidiary.

A 10-year scheme would involve the development of regional golf centres in the South East, South West, East Midlands and North West of England, and the South-

West of Scotland. Consultation with local authorities in each area has begun and the first site is expected to be completed in 1991 or 1992.

Kenneth Schofield, the executive director of the PGA European Tour, said: "This marks the arrival of the tour into the capital market. While most things right now are sunny, we are still involved in a volatile market, so it is important we make constructive moves for tomorrow's golfers."

"Unfortunately, in the great majority of Western European countries there are still many areas with insufficient or totally non-existent golfing facilities. It is an

increasingly serious problem. Unless the ever-growing numbers wanting to play golf are given the right opportunities to do so, then the great game's future faces possible stagnation."

Schofield regards the scheme as an opportunity to develop tournament venues on a similar line to those which have come to fruition in the United States under the umbrella of the US PGA Tour.

Whitco has appointed David Thomas, the former Ryder Cup golfer, as their course design consultant and Neil Coles, a contemporary of Thomas, will be the executive chairman of PGA European Tour Properties, formed to develop a network of approved

courses which, once built, will be under their control.

David Deas, a director of Alfred McAlpine, said: "We have the experience and maturity to tackle a venture of this magnitude. Each 400-acre site will have two golf courses and spectator viewing will be a priority. The concept is new to the UK in design and planning and we have only the interests of golf at heart."

It remains to be seen whether each site, on which it is expected that between 200 and 300 houses will be constructed, will provide additional opportunities for the 700,000 golfers in the country who are not members of clubs. The suggestion is that there will be only

limited membership available and that this could go to purchasers of the houses constructed on the various sites.

Coles said: "They will be quality golf courses open to people who can play and they will be profit-making exercises. The need for new courses, maintained to a high standard, but suitable and readily available to all those coming into golf is also recognized. We can look forward with confidence to this project with our partners."

The Government is encouraging the development of farmland into sporting complexes. This latest scheme could mean that growth area since the building of houses should easily accommodate the £30

million cost of each venture. In other words the lead set by the PGA European Tour could encourage other farmers to seek planning permission for similar developments in conjunction with their local builders.

Thomas, however, pointed out: "This is basic farmland. It is not natural golfing country. It needs to be thought about, which is not a bad thing, and a creative mind is essential. The forming of such a powerful partnership as Whitco and the Tour is a tremendous boost for golf today and for all who will want to play the game in the future. They know what is wanted and have the resources to meet that need."

END COLUMN

Counties pitch off-key note

By Alan Lee
Cricket Correspondent

England's search for a cricket team capable of restoring the lost art of winning Test matches is now being severely hampered by the counties. The reason for this paradox is the preparation of pitches — or, more specifically, the lack of it.

All around the country, the quality of pitches has been allowed, if not actively encouraged, to deteriorate. The attitude of individual clubs ranges from inactivity to incompetence and voices of protest are now at last being raised in influential places.

Tomorrow evening in London, the England selectors will reconvene to nominate the players for the first Test against West Indies. An already hazardous project has been complicated by an understandably frustrated team manager, Micky Stewart.

"The biggest problem this season," Stewart says, "is that the pitches have been too much in favour of bowlers. I have already driven 3,000 miles and I have seen nothing other than bowlers struggling. I have ended up having to imagine what bowlers would be like in the flat conditions they are likely to encounter in a Test."

Taking a gamble on the bowlers

Stewart's concern is exclusively the health of the Test team, but he will be aware that other forces are at work. Having spent a number of years as manager of Surrey, he must recognize the dilemma which every county confronts — a choice between aiming for short-term success and long-term excellence.

Human nature being what it is, most opt for the former and elect to play their home games on under-prepared pitches.

What they are doing is guaranteeing a result. Their gamble is to back their own bowlers against the opposition's, or perhaps, in Worcester's case, to back one of their own batsmen to make more runs than all of the visitors. It is a policy which can produce hectic, compulsive matches. It can also produce very short matches, artificially good bowling figures and total loss of confidence among talented batsmen.

Some counties indulge in this practice more than others; very few are entirely innocent. They would probably treat any accusation of selfishness or cynicism with scorn but what they cannot deny is that some are calculatingly ignoring the directive of the Test and County Cricket Board that all matches should start on firm, dry pitches.

The easy option, and the most popular, is simply to leave too much grass on a pitch, ensuring ample help for the seam bowlers. Leave it a little damp, just to make sure. This expedient has the advantage of requiring no skill.

The England selectors are not alone in their dismay. The game's leading administrators, while delighted at most aspects of the experiment with four-day championship matches, believe that more serious efforts must be made by the clubs to produce pitches designed to last.

Need for attitudes to be re-assessed

Four-day games are here to stay, so long as the remaining "parochial" objections can be overcome. Most players, even those who set out with reservations, now acknowledge that matches can evolve more naturally over the longer time span and that the better team will usually win. Ian Botham is the latest to propose a county championship consisting of 16 four-day fixtures but although this is the logical target, it is still some years off.

Next year's fixtures are already drafted and follow the same pattern as this season. In 1990, if the counties desire it, the experiment can be extended to embrace more four-day games. Before that happens, however, every club must re-assess its priorities.

For the sake of the England side in particular, but also the county game in general, it must fervently be hoped that everyone decides the "way ahead lies in making pitches which are fair for all, not just for the fast bowlers. As Stewart says: "Four-day cricket should be an aid to producing Test players but at the moment the surfaces it is played on are a big handicap. It is the clubs' responsibility to put that right."

Moynihan warns Germans over selling of tickets

By Clive White

The intention of the West German authorities to sell England's unwanted tickets for the European Championship next month on the open market was described as "grossly irresponsible" by Colin Moynihan, the Minister for Sport, yesterday. At the same time he applauded the decision of the Football Association to buy up the tickets themselves rather than risk them falling into the hands of English hooligans.

"Surely one of the great lessons of the last five years is the key importance of effective segregation," Moynihan said. "And that means you've got to go to every possible length to ensure segregation. It would have

been a grossly irresponsible move on behalf of the West Germans if they had allowed these tickets to be sold on the open market."

He said that he had requested it of all parties concerned that tickets for England games were not sold on the day of the game. But so far the West Germans have given little indication that they could comply with this wish because it would be an infringement of German federal law.

West Germany have not yet signed the European Convention on Football Violence and Misbehaviour at Sports Events, which binds the signatories to segregate rival supporters and to take all

possible precautions before the event. Yet they are known to be in support of the convention's principles.

Moynihan has asked that the Germans do not sell tickets involving England for a week before the game and to publicize their decision. "At the moment anyone can go out there and pick up a ticket on the day without any form of vetting," he said.

The FA had been very responsible in monitoring all ticket applications in England, Moynihan believed. He did not think that the FA should have been placed in a position where they might have to stand the loss of £34,000 if the unwanted 2,550 tickets remain unsold. But he added: "We are on trial, so we've got to take every responsibility even if it means that a financial loss is incurred as well."

He said that segregation did not just depend on the distribution of the tickets but on effective stewarding at the turnstiles to prevent rival supporters from entering the same section of the stadium. "We saw last Saturday people sporting different coloured scarves and hats in the same area of Wembley Stadium. Now that requires tough stewarding and policing."

Moynihan said that he would again take up the matter of ticket sales with the FA, who, in turn, he said, would contact the German authorities.

Trouble may sway UEFA decision

Stuttgart (AFP) — Trouble between supporters at the England-Scotland international at Wembley Stadium last Saturday could be the last straw for the European Football Union (UEFA) in the decision to readmit English clubs to European competition.

"This sort of incident hardly

pleads in favour of English clubs returning. If they cannot maintain order in their own country, what will it be like away from home," Jacques Georges, the UEFA president, said here yesterday.

Georges has cancelled a planned trip to England for the Football League centenary celebrations. The UEFA executive committee meets in Munich on June 24 to decide if English clubs will be readmitted to European competitions.

"The Football Association cannot solve the problem alone," Georges added. "It needs the backing of the Government, which does not seem to think the conditions are right for a return."

Wise rewarded by Sexton

Dennis Wise, whose contribution helped Wimbledon to victory over Liverpool in the FA Cup final, flew to Switzerland yesterday as a replacement for the England under-21 squad. Dave Sexton, the manager, already denied the services of players from Manchester City, Arsenal and Nottingham Forest, turned to the winger after losing five players from his 17-strong selection.

The Middlebrough players, Colin Cooper and Stuart Ripley, are involved in the play-off challenge for a first division place. Martin Keown, of Aston Villa, is injured; Gary Ablett, of Liverpool, has measles, while Chris Fairclough, the Tottenham Hotspur defender, is being married. Sexton has also drafted in Brian Statham, of Tottenham, Micky Forsyth, of Derby County, and Alan McCleary, of Millwall.

Paul Stewart, the Manchester City forward, will appear before an FA disciplinary committee today in Manchester for exceeding 50 points. Stewart has already been sus-

pended three times, and fined £400, after being booked 12 times last season.

Stewart, aged 23, said: "My record looks worse than it is, but most of my bookings have been down to enthusiasm. I will tell the committee I am going to change my ways, because I don't want to appear again. My main problem is that I want to be a winner."

● BORN: Johnny Ekstrom, the Swedish international forward, is to join Bayern Munich, for a fee of £700,000 (AFP reports). Ekstrom will join on a three-year contract after an 18-month spell with Empoli, the Italian side, who have been relegated to the second division.

● Aldershot, the third division club with debts of more than £350,000 have given a free transfer to Tommy Langley, their leading scorer, because they cannot afford to pay his wages. The club have also released Paul Roberts, Gary Johnson, Archie Common and David Coles.

● Doug Roughey, of Brighton, and Vince Overson, of Bir-

mingham City, have both been suspended for the first two games of next season after topping 41 disciplinary points.

● Peter Mendham, the former Norwich City player, has recovered from the pelvic injury that forced him to quit last season.

● Southampton have resigned Jimmy Case on a one-year contract.

● Martyn Bennett, the West Bromwich Albion central defender, is to have a second operation on a troublesome back injury next week.

Box pop

Elton John, the Watford Football Club chairman, has bought an executive box at Vicarage Road and will reserve it for underprivileged children and other charitable causes next season.

Tooby at Belfast

Two of the world's top middle-distance runners, Ely van Hulst, of The Netherlands, and Angela Tooby, of Britain, are to take part in the Giro Bank games at Belfast in June.

When stamina counts in Paris

Tigerish Bates refuses to die

From Rex Bellamy
Tennis Correspondent
Paris

British players are not supposed to beat Italians in men's singles matches played on clay. But it happened yesterday when Jimmy Bates came back from 2-4 down in the fifth set to beat Francesco Cancellotti 6-3, 4-6, 7-5, 3-6, 7-5 in the second round of the French championship. The match spanned three hours and 26 minutes of oppressive heat.

Bates ranks 44 places above Cancellotti, but the handsome Perugian has more experience on clay and more cause for confidence in his ability to master the arduous manoeuvres it demands. Cancellotti's forehand was also the most damaging shot either man had, though Bates was the more fluent on the backhand.

Bates became cross because Italian camp followers — aware that Cancellotti has a knack of leading in the fifth set, but losing — kept encouraging their man with shouts of "Dai". Bates took this to be a callous corporate demand for his competitive demise.

They played some good tennis and towards the end Bates played most of it. He reached match point by forcing Cancellotti to err on the forehand. Then Bates crisply created a chance to get to the net and finish the job with a forehand volley.

As much as anything, one admired the ever-alert mental stamina that enabled Bates to become the first British man to reach the third round since John Lloyd did so in 1982. Bates will play Magnus Gustafsson, a large Swede ranked 25 places above him.

Jo Durie was beaten 6-1, 6-4 by Elena Reinach, who has engaged Annette du Ploy (formerly Van Zyl) to advise her for five weeks. Twenty years ago Du Ploy advanced to the semi-finals here, which is more than can be expected of Reinach.

Yesterday Reinach was serving at match point when a Durie backhand looked to clip a line. Both players had moved across to play the deuce point before the umpire announced that the backhand



Wilderer will-power: the former French champion is stretched to the limit against Yannis

was out and the match was over. Durie protested, heatedly, but it did her no good.

Of the men and women seeded to reach the quarter-finals, Hana Mandlikova, the 1981 champion, was the first to lose. Recently bothered by an ailing hamstring, she was playing only her fourth match in ten weeks and was beaten 6-4, 6-3 by Bettina Fulco, aged 19, a neat little clay-court specialist from Mar del Plata, which is also the home town of Guillermo Vilas.

Mandlikova was in charge

when serving at 4-2 and 40-15 but a bad "leave" arrested her progress. She lost three of the next four points with double faults, conceded five consecutive games, and made too many mistakes to resist a sound player on the ground with a gift for counter-punching.

Another Argentine, Mariana Perez-Rolden, won a match on Tuesday before discovering (in hospital, later) that she had cracked a kneecap in the process. Yesterday she withdrew. Hella Ter Riet, of The Netherlands, was ill be-

fore playing Martina Navratilova and, having lost seven consecutive games, was sick again and had to call it a day.

This is an awfully tough tournament and almost anything can happen — like a Briton sorting out an Italian on clay or (as sometimes happens) a tiger dining at a local restaurant. The patron simply insists that this particular customer should eat *sur le trottoir* rather than *à la table*.

Results, page 47

SPORT IN BRIEF

More tests at random

Random drug testing is to be stepped up in the GRE British Athletics League this summer, the premier club competition, and extended to its sister competition, the GRE Cup. Until this year, the league had its own team to carry out the tests, but now they will be carried out under the direction of the Sports Council.

Slack to rest

Will Slack, the Middlesex opener, has been ordered by his doctor to rest for two weeks, while awaiting the results of a full medical examination into the possible causes of his recent collapse during the match at Leicester.

Black ice

The Edmonton Oilers and the Boston Bruins were tied at 3-3 Tuesday night when a power failure plunged the Boston Garden into darkness and forced officials to cancel game four of the Stanley Cup ice hockey finals. It will be replayed in Edmonton today.

Joho's stage

Stephan Joho, of Switzerland, won the third stage of the Tour of Italy cycling race after a four-up sprint at the Adriatic resort of Vasta. Jean François Bernard of France, retained the pink jersey of overall leader.



Ngugi: struggling

Ngugi injured

John Ngugi, Kenya's world cross-country champion, arrived in London yesterday to receive medical treatment for a nagging hip injury. He had to struggle to win the 5,000 metres in the Kenyan Armed Forces athletics championships last weekend.

Welsh wizard

Jahangir Khan, who last played in Wales as an unknown junior, returns on June 6 to take on the leading Welsh players in a sponsored squash tournament at the National Sports Centre, Cardiff.

Last fling

Rene Weller, the veteran West German boxer who surrendered his European lightweight title in April, is to challenge Brian Mitchell, South Africa's World Boxing Association junior lightweight champion, on June 29 in Hamburg. "I have always kept a small back door open for a world title fight," he said.

Track ban

Malcolm Simmons, the former golden boy of British speedway, has been banned from riding for King's Lynn, the struggling British League team he promotes, as it is against the rules.

Verona gala

The Golden Gala grand prix athletics meeting will be held in Verona on July 27 instead of at its traditional Rome venue where the Olympic stadium is undergoing essential work ahead of the 1990 World Cup football finals. The grand prix athletics season starts in San Jose, California, on Saturday.

Golf Test

Greg Norman will lead a six-man Australian team in a Ryder Cup-style golf "Test" match against Britain at Port Douglas, Queensland, from November 18 to 20.

Cricket diary

The Australian Cricket Board announced its 1988-89 home international cricket programme: Nov 18-22: First Test, Brisbane; Dec 2-6: Second Test, Perth; Dec 10-17: First round World Series Cup; Dec 24-29: Third Test, Melbourne; Jan 1-12: Second round World Series Cup; Jan 14: First World Series Cup final, Melbourne; Jan 16: Second final, Sydney; Jan 18: Third final, Sydney; Jan 27-31: Fourth Test, Sydney; Feb 3-7: Fifth Test, Adelaide.

Coe given grounds for relief

By Steve Acteson

Sebastian Coe, the double Olympic 1,500 metres champion, will be welcome to continue to train on the grounds of the Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Club at Richmond, despite reports of complaints from members, an official of the club said yesterday.

Coe was reportedly confronted by one angry member who said: "This is a private golf club. What the devil do you think you are doing here?"

Despite assurances from Coe that he had been given permission by the club secretary, Michael Lunt, the member apparently went on: "You should be doing your training in a public park. If you were hit by a golf ball all sorts of problems could arise."

A club spokesman said: "The incident has been blown up out of all proportion."

Hospital prepares for Botham's back-pack

By Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent

A small private hospital in Worcester will today be besieged by the type of media attention normally assembled only for royal births, when Ian Botham is admitted for the operation designed to save his cricket career.

Botham, an immobile and unhappy spectator at the rain-delayed Benson and Hedges Cup quarter-final on his home ground yesterday, confirmed that the spinal surgery dramatically urged upon him last week will take place late this afternoon.

Despite diverse medical opinions, some suggesting he is acting in haste, Botham has having no second thoughts about the operation. "I want to get it done as soon as possible," he said.

"I am flattered by the concern and interest I have had from specialists in various parts of the world but they are not fully aware of the facts. If

they saw the way in which my spine has deteriorated over the past eight years they might know a bit more of what I am suffering."

The operation, to fuse two vertebrae, will be carried out by the specialist, John Davis, in the Hospital Corporation of America (HCA) South Bank Hospital. Botham will have a private room, for which the HCA charge £154 per day and understandably, if optimistically, he made a plea for privacy during the three or four weeks he expects to be there convalescing.

He said: "I have total faith in the surgeon and I am certainly in the mood to fight back. We have such a fine side at Worcester that I want to be around when they win the championship. I have done more things in my career but I don't have a championship medal and that alone makes me determined to play again."

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